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THE KINGDOM  
of the  
TWO SICILIES.

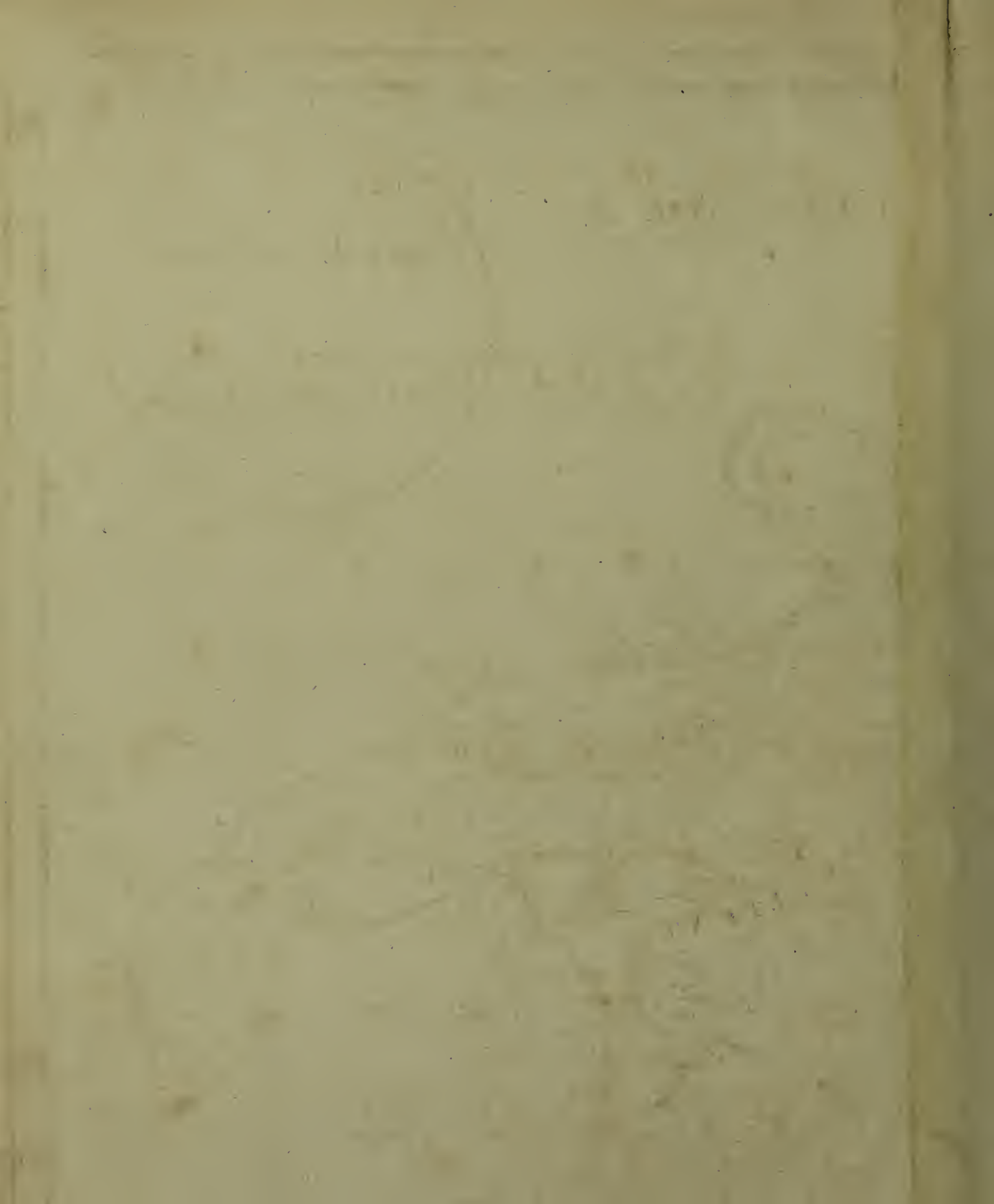












T R A V E L S  
I N T H E  
T W O S I C I L I E S,

BY

HENRY SWINBURNE, Esq.

IN

The Years 1777, 1778, 1779, and 1780.

V O L. I.

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QUID VERUM ATQUE DECENS CURO—

HOR.

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L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR P. ELMSLY, IN THE STRAND.

M.DCC.LXXXIII.

Richard Henry Beaumont

T R A V E L

1871

TWO SICILIES

16640

THE HISTORY OF THE

BY

THE REV. JOHN G. LEWIS

NEW YORK



NEW YORK

1871

THE HISTORY OF THE

BY



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## P R E F A C E.

**I** CANNOT presume to print a Tour through the Two Sicilies, without offering an apology for its appearance. They have been so often described, that nothing but novelty of matter can excuse a fresh attempt. Our earliest education has made us acquainted with those classic regions; Poetry and History have rendered their topography familiar to us, and every school-boy can point out the ruins of Magna Græcia and Sicily. No country, Latium alone excepted, has so frequently employed the pen of the antiquary; and the observations made by travellers of a political turn may be supposed to have canvassed sufficiently the advantages as well as inconveniences of its present situation.

Under the discouragement arising from this anticipation, and the unpromising circumstance of passing over ground often and nicely examined, I yet do not despair of conveying such information on many heads, as may justify my boldness to the Reader, if, from a laudable desire of improvement, any will venture with me along so beaten a track. Part of my route is fresh land; and where I shall be under the irksome necessity of treading in the footsteps

of preceding authors, I hope something will be struck out that has escaped their penetration. Far be it from me, wantonly, to impugn their authority, or detract from their merits; I only wish to insinuate, that, as two persons seldom consider an object in the same point of view, and are still more rarely led by their perceptions to a combination of ideas exactly similar, it is but reasonable to hope that many openings may be left for the remarks of subsequent observers\*. When allowances are made for difference of seasons, diversity of studies, occasional information, and many other accidental helps, we shall find an ample field still remain for our curiosity to range in: to say nothing of the revolutions, moral, physical and political, effectuated by the hand of Time, which, however slowly and imperceptibly it may perform its operations, acts with irresistible force upon the state both of nature and of man. In the southern parts of Italy, where the elements ferment with more than ordinary violence, where changes in government have succeeded each other with uncommon rapidity, the variations are more precipitate, the effects more striking.

In the course of seventeen centuries, the face of things has been so much altered, that the descriptions given by the ancient classics can seldom interfere with those of a modern writer. The later Latin and Italian authors, who

\* *Jamais deux hommes ne jugerent pareillement de même chose. Et est impossible de voir deux opinions semblables exactement, non seulement de divers hommes, mais en même homme à diverses heures.*



## P R E F A C E.

have treated these subjects, are but little known or read in England, and most of them are rather discussers of detached points of history and geography, than general circumambulatory observers. They were too little acquainted with the laws and customs of foreign nations, to be able to form just criticisms upon those of their own country; and without some solid grounds for comparison, a writer will bewilder himself in his reasonings, and betray in each page that he is blinded and misled by ignorance and vanity.

How far my endeavours to instruct may be rendered superfluous by any recent accounts is a point which the voice of the Public has alone a right to determine. I wait the decision with respect, but without fear, conscious of having done my utmost to deserve its indulgence; for to my own observations, and the information derived from books, I have added many interesting details communicated to me by learned and curious persons of the kingdom of Naples\*.

Wherever my opinions deviate from those of my predecessors, I have studied to convey my dissent in such diffident terms, as may avoid all appearance of an attack on the literary reputation of those from whom I presume to differ in sentiment: but this delicacy does not prevail so

\* I am particularly indebted to Monsignor Capecehatro, Archbishop of Tarento; Counsellor Monsignor Galiani; D. Filippo Brigante Patrizio di Gallipoli; D. Pasquale Baffi; D. Domenico Cirillo; George Hart, Esquire; Padre Antonio Minasi, of the order of St. Dominick; D. Domenico Minasi, Arciprêtre of Molocchio; and D. Giovanni Presta of Gallipoli.

far as to obstruct the liberty of judging for myself; the maxim of *nullius jurare in verba*, constitutes the very spirit of my undertaking. In this freedom, and a scrupulous attention to truth, consisted the chief, perhaps the only merit of my Spanish Tour. The same principle shall direct my pen throughout the present work. By thus pursuing the dull plain track of truth, I shall, no doubt, run the risk of displeasing some of my Readers; but, I confess, I cannot condescend to keep their attention alive with fiction, be it ever so agreeable. According to my plan, the effusions of imagination are debarred all share in the composition: I deny myself the usual privilege of working up a trivial event into a sentimental or laughable adventure; the lively dialogue with persons who never honoured me with their confidence, is excluded; nor do I allow myself to dress up the trite story of an old book of jests, and pass it off for the scandalous chronicle of the day.

By refusing the assistance of such ready auxiliaries, I am aware that I weaken my force, and contract the circle of entertainment to a degree many people will disapprove of; but I intreat them to consider, that I am writing the account of a real Tour, and not an imitation of Sterne's Sentimental Journey.

Some Critics, I am told, have imputed as a blemish to my Letters on Spain, that I was rather an exact describer of still life, than an acute delineator of characters and manners. To this charge I can only answer, that having detected former writers in many errors, which they had



fallen into through hastiness, misconception, or credulity, it was natural I should give into the opposite extreme, and, by advancing nothing but what I had vouchers for, lay myself open to an accusation of excessive caution, and consequently dulness.

I am apprehensive the same censure will be passed upon my present publication; but I choose to imitate the satisfactory dryness of an authentic Gazette, rather than, like a sprightly Morning-Paper, amuse and mislead, by interweaving a thousand pleasing impostures with half a dozen real facts.

The longer any man of candour resides in a foreign country, the greater difficulty he finds in giving a character of its inhabitants. He perceives so many nice varieties, so many exceptions to general rules, as almost destroy his hopes of drawing up one comprehensive description of them: he every day becomes more conscious of the presumption of those who run and read; and, what is worse, write. Unfortunately, it is from such rapid observations that most people are to derive their knowledge of foreign nations; and I leave it to the impartial to decide upon the probability of any resemblance existing in such portraits. I have read the travels of one of these dashing writers\*, who allots a whole chapter, with a title in capitals, to the character and manners of the Neapolitans, which points he

\* Voyage de France, d'Espagne, de Portugal, et d'Italie, par Mr. S—— (Silhouette) in 1730.

handles with as much decisiveness, as if he had resided forty years at Naples in quality of spy. Upon comparing the dates of his Journal, it appears, that his whole stay in that city was exactly five days and a half, part of which was spent upon Mount Vesuvius, and among the curiosities of Puzzuoli.

My style has been by some thought deficient in elegance and refinement; but until the positive ideas we are to attach to these words be ascertained and generally agreed upon, I shall not attempt to emerge out of my humble sphere. They have of late been much used, perhaps misapplied; and many persons of taste and knowledge in our language are of opinion, that the terms elegant and refined have been frequently employed in speaking of writings, where the epithets, fustian and affected, would have been more applicable. They pretend, that many of our modern compositions verge to that simpering style known in France by the name of *precieux*, which breaks out in an unnecessary adoption of foreign and learned phrases, a fondness for founding words to express common ideas, and a continual round of metaphorical and bombastical imagery. I do not know how far these critics may have reason on their side, but as I feel no ambition to try any daring flights, I shall rest contented, if I am allowed in this work the same merits that were granted me in my Spanish Tour, viz. truth, perspicuity, and common sense.



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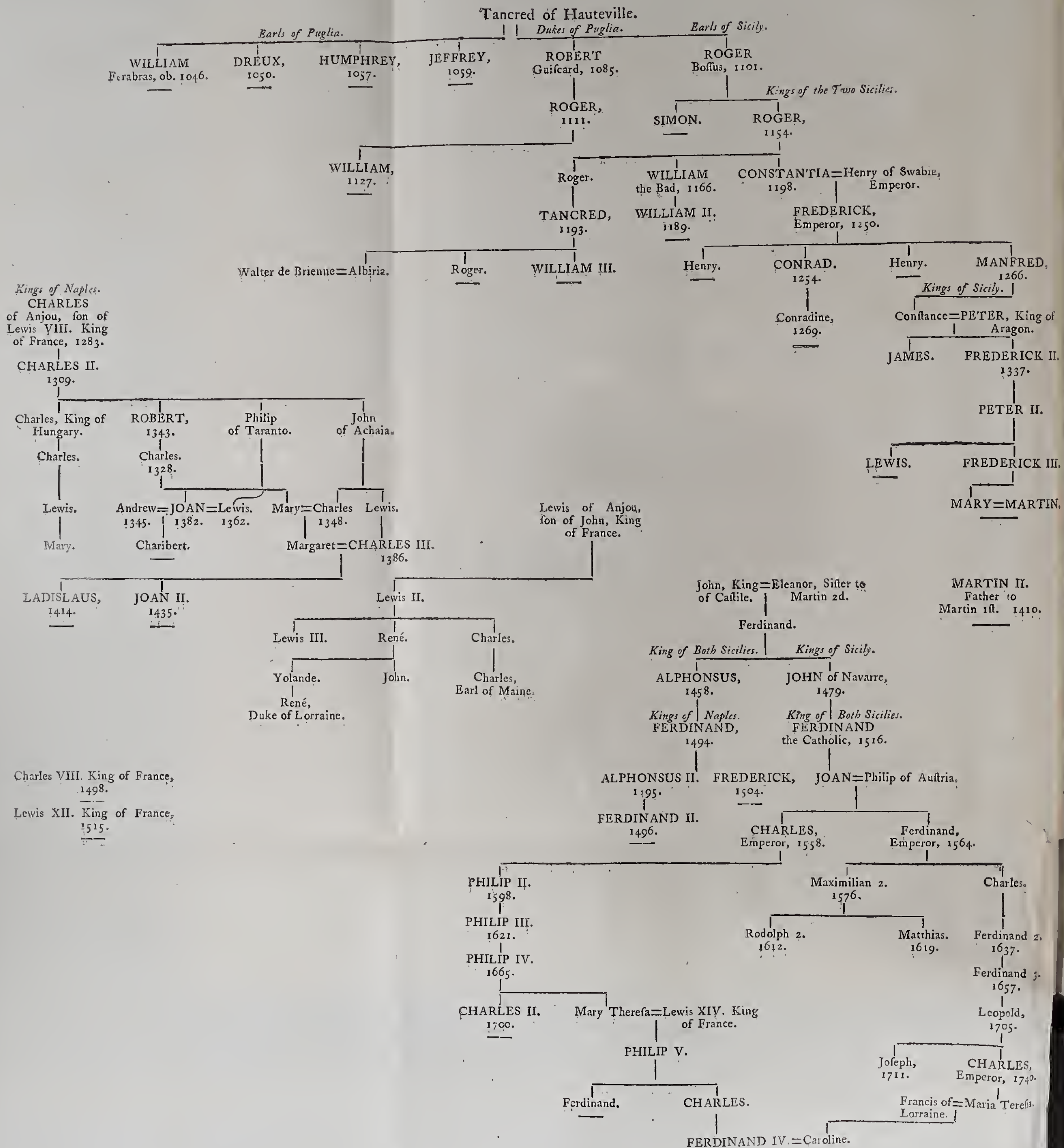
## E R R A T A.

- Page 89, line 21, for *ponti*. † *Ingerit celsa* read *ponti ingerit*. † *Celsa*.
- 101, — 7, for *besta* read *bestia*.
- 106, — 20, for *spirit, bad* read *spirit had*.
- 107, — 13, for *rise, at* read *rise at*.
- 136, — 6, for *arbor suda* read *arbor Juda*.
- 190, — 27, for *supplies of corn from other countries* read *other countries for a supply of corn*.
- 198, — 3, for *bout* read *About*.
- 215, — 5, for *inclusively, to about* read *inclusively, about*.
- 222, — 7, for *this side* read *this site*.
- 226, — 5, for *at the high* read *at the end of the high*.
- 245, — 10, for *Lucrene* read *Lucrine*.
- 258, — 17, for *vessels fly* read *vessels could fly*.
- 260, — 23, for *Tarentorum* read *Tarentinorum*.
- 261, — 16, for *æquo* read *equo*.
- 274, — 5, for *properly* read *profusely*.
- 274, — 21, for *Metapontorum* read *Metapontinorum*.
- 277, — 19, for *a few off miles* read *a few miles off*.
- 299, — 23, for *Carigliano* read *Corigliano*.
- 300, — 25, for *tracks* read *tracts*.
- 312, — 9, for *Philocletes* read *Philoctetes*.
- 321, — 11, for *high, rocks coarse*. read *high, the rocks coarse*.
- 321, — 16, for *fallen* read *destroyed*.
- 325, — 6, for *Ithican* read *Ithacan*.
- 325, — 16, for *Ithica* read *Ithaca*.
- 330, — 24, for *Palermo. After* read *Palermo, after*.
- 346, — 25, for *tusted* read *luted*.
- 360, — 9, for *rhind* read *rind*.
- 395, — 8, for *leg* read *legs*.
- 409, — 6, for *break on all* read *break out on all*.





# A GENEALOGICAL TABLE of the SOVEREIGNS of the TWO SICILIES.





# TABLES OF COINS, &c.

## GOLD COINS.

1. Piece of six ducats.
2. Piece of four ducats.
3. Piece of three ducats, or, Oncia, a Sicilian coin.
4. Piece of two ducats.

## BRASS COINS.

The piece of 1 grano and 6 calli\*, called the Publica †.

— 1 —	— 0 —
— 0 —	— 9 —
— 0 —	— 6 —
The	
Torneſe ‡.	
— 0 —	— 4 —
— 0 —	— 3 —

## SILVER COINS.

Piece of 13 carlini & 2 grana.

— 12 —	— 0 —
— 10 —	— 0 —
— 6 —	— 6 —
— 6 —	— 0 —
— 5 —	— 0 —
— 4 —	— 0 —
— 3 —	— 0 —
— 2 —	— 6 —
— 2 —	— 4 —
— 2 —	— 0 —
— 1 —	— 3 —
— 1 —	— 2 —
— 1 —	— 0 —
— 0 —	— 5 —

The carlino of Naples, and tari of Sicily.

1 Oncia	} contains	3 ducats.	} {	Accounts are kept at Naples in ducats, carlini, and grana; but regular merchants keep theirs in two columns only, viz. ducats and grana.
1 Ducat		10 carlini.		
1 Carlino		10 grana.		
1 Grano		12 calli.		

The Neapolitan ducat, upon the supposed par with England, is worth forty-five pence, or 3 s. 9 d. sterling, and the carlino 4½ d. but this is no fixed rule, as exchange is continually varying, and occasionally makes a difference of ten or fifteen per cent. higher or lower, and sometimes even more.

\* Calli ought to be written Cavalli, from the horses stamped on the coin of Ferdinand the First, who, by a wretched quibble, put on it the legend, *Æquitas regni*.

† Publica is so named from its motto, *Publica commoditas*.

‡ A word taken from the French *Tournois*.

## WEIGHTS and MEASURES.

$\left. \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ Cantaro} \\ 1 \text{ Rotolo} \\ 1 \text{ Pound} \end{array} \right\} \text{ contains } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 100 \text{ rotoli} \\ 33\frac{1}{3} \text{ ounces} \\ 12 \text{ ounces.} \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{N. B. The Neapolitan cantaro is equal to} \\ 196 \text{ English } \text{lb} \text{ of Averduois weight; and} \\ \text{the rotolo to 2 English } \text{lb}. \text{ The pound} \\ \text{is a trifling fraction above 11 oz. English.} \end{array} \right.$

---

### LONG - MEASURE.

1 Cana contains 8 palmi. — It is computed that  $2\frac{1}{3}$  yards English make a Neapolitan canna, and that a palmo is equal to  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches English.

---

### LAND - MEASURE.

Land is measured by the moggia, a superficial quantity containing 900 paffi, each passo containing  $7\frac{1}{3}$  palmi.

### LAND-MEASURE in PUGLIA.

$\left. \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ Caro} \\ 1 \text{ Versura} \\ 1 \text{ Catena} \\ 1 \text{ Passo} \end{array} \right\} \text{ contains } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 20 \text{ versure} \\ 6 \text{ catene} \\ 10 \text{ paffi} \\ 7 \text{ palmi.} \end{array} \right.$

---

### DRY - MEASURE.

Wheat is measured by the tomolo, of which  $5\frac{1}{3}$  are equal to an English quarter.

---

### WINE - MEASURE.

Wine is measured by the barrel, containing 66 caraffi, equal to  $9\frac{1}{2}$  English gallons. — In the city of Naples, the barrel contains only 60 caraffi.

---

### OIL - MEASURE.

$\left. \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ Salma} \\ 1 \text{ Star} \\ 1 \text{ Rotolo} \end{array} \right\} \text{ contains } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 16 \text{ stars} \\ 10\frac{1}{3} \text{ rotoli} \\ 33\frac{1}{3} \text{ ounces, equal to 2 } \text{lb} \text{ English.} \end{array} \right.$

A falma contains about 40 English gallons.

### ROADS



# ROADS of the Kingdom of NAPLES.

## Post-Road from Rome to Naples.

### From Rome to Terracina

Fondi	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Itri	1
Mola	1
Garigliano	1
S. Agata	1
Francolisi	1
Capua	1
Aversa	1
Naples. Post royal.	

## Post-Road from Naples to Caserta.

### From Naples to Caivano, post royal.

Caserta	1
---------	---

### From Caserta to S. Luci

$\frac{1}{2}$

### From Caserta to the Aqueduct

1

### From Caserta to Capua

$0\frac{2}{3}$

## From Naples to Puzzuoli, post royal.

## Post-Road from Naples to Manfredonia.

### From Naples to Marigliano, p.r. &

Cardinale	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Avellino	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Dentecane	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Grottaminarda	1
Ariano	1
Savignano	1
Ponte di Bovino	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Lucera	2
Foggia	2
Manfredonia	3

## Post-Road from Naples to Lecce.

### From Naples to Ponte Bovino

$10\frac{1}{2}$

Ordona	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Cerignuola	$1\frac{1}{2}$
S. Cassano	1
Barletta	1
Bisceglia	1
Giovenazzo	1
Bari	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Mola	$0\frac{1}{2}$
Monopoli	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Fasano	1
Ostuni	$1\frac{1}{2}$
S. Vito	1
Mesagne	$1\frac{3}{4}$
Cellino	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Lecce	$1\frac{1}{2}$

## Post-Road from Naples to Persano.

### From Naples to La Nunziata, p.r.

$\frac{1}{4}$

Nocera	1
Salerno	1
Vicenza	1
Evoli	1
Persano	1

### From Naples to Pesto.

To Evoli	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Pesto	$1\frac{1}{2}$

Price. 11 Carlini each pair of horses, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  more at the post royal. 3 Carlini are the due of the postillion for each pair of horses.

b 2

Post-

## Post-Road from Naples to Reggio.

To Evoli	5½
La Duchessa	I
Auletta	I
Sala	I
Casalnuovo	I
Lagonegro	I
Lauria	I
Castelluccio	I
La Rotonda	I
Castrovillari	I
Efero	I
Celfo	I

## To Pantoni

Cosenza	I
Rogliano	I
Seigliano	I
S. Biale	I *
Fondaco del Fico	I
Monteleone	I
S. Pietro de Melito	I
Drofi	I
Seminare	I
Passo di Solani	I
Fiumara di Muro	I
Catona	I †
Reggio	I

## R O U T E S of CALESSI, Muleteers and Vetturini.

## From Naples to Reggio, by Puglia.

1. Day, dinner at Cardinale, sup-  
at Avellino.
2. Mirabella—Ariano.
3. Ponte di Bovino—Ortona.
4. Canosa—San Cosimo.
5. Fontana d'Ogna—Gravina.
6. Matera.
7. Vallecupa—Torredi Mare.
8. Policoro—Rocca Imperiale.
9. Castel Roseto—Trebisaccia.
10. Madonna dell' Arma—Bufa-  
lara di Cassano.
11. Torre de Paolini—Mirti.
12. Cariati—Capo d'Alice.
13. Fasano—Cotrone.
14. Cutri—Megliacane.
15. Taverna Nova—Casine di  
Catanzaro. Carriages can go  
no farther; and litters are used  
from hence.
16. Borgia—Fondaco del Fico.

17. Monteleone—Seminara.
18. Scilla.
19. Reggio.

## From Naples to Reggio, by Salerno.

1. Nocera—Salerno.
2. Vicenza—Evoli.
3. La Duchessa—Polla.
4. Sala—S. Lorenzo.
5. Casalnuovo—Lagonero.
6. Lauria—Castelluccio.
7. La Rotonda—Murano.
8. Oria—Corigliano.
9. Rossano—Mirti.
10. Cariati—Capo d'Alice.
11. Fossaro—Cotrone.
12. Cutri—Megliacane.
13. Catanzaro.
14. Borgia—Aqua che Favella.
15. Pizzo—Monteleone.
16. Seminara.
17. Reggio.

## From Naples to Aquila in Abruzzo.

To Clavi	23 miles	Castel del Sangro	21	Novelli	14
Triverno	23	Sulmona	20	Aquila	14

Here is a road of communication to Catanzaro.—Two posts.

† Here one embarks for Messina.



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A

G E O G R A P H I C A L   V I E W

O F   T H E

K I N G D O M   O F   N A P L E S.

**T**HIS Kingdom occupies the most southern extremity of Italy, and extends from latitude  $42^{\circ} 50'$  to latitude  $37^{\circ} 50'$ ; and from longitude  $14^{\circ}$  to longitude  $19^{\circ}$  East from London. Its greatest length 450 Italian miles; breadth 140; circumference 1,468. Its surface contains 3,500 square leagues; or, as some geographers compute, 14,508,973 Moggie, each of which is a square of 30 paces on each side; every pace of seven palms and one-fifth:—but these are rough calculations.

Situation  
and Extent,

The Apennine runs through it from North to South; a branch of the Apennine runs West, to form the promontory of Sorrento. Monte Gargano is a promontory on the Adriatic Sea; Monte Barbaro, Mifeno, and Vefuvius, are insulated mountains.

Mountains.

Garigliano and Voltorno, navigable; Tronto, Aterno, Sangro, Fortore, Ofanto, Basiento, Agri, Crati, Metramo, Amato, Silari, and Sarno.

Rivers.

Celano.

- Lakes.** Celano, Agnano, Averno, Licola, Fufaro, Patria, Lefina, Fondi.
- Islands.** In the Mediterranean, Ponza, Ventotiene, Ischia, Procida, Nisida, Capri, Galli, Licosa, Dino.  
In the Ionian, the island of Calypso, Monte Sardo, S. Andrea, and S. Pelagia.  
In the Adriatic, Tremiti and Pelagosa.
- Number of Inhabitants.** In 1669, it amounted to 2,500,000; in 1765, to 3,953,098; in 1773, to 4,249,430; and in 1779, to 4,641,363, exclusive of the army and naval establishment.
- Provinces.** Twelve; viz. Terra di Lavoro, Principato citra, Principato ultra, Basilicata, Capitanata, County of Molise, Terra di Bari, Terra di Otranto, Calabria citra, Calabria ultra, Abruzzo citra, and Abruzzo ultra. These contain 2,067 universita, under the denomination of cities, towns, and villages.
- Tribunals.** At Naples,—Camera di Santa Chiara, S. R. C. di Santa Chiara, Sommaria, Vicaria, Del Almirante, Consolato, Della Lana, Della Seta, Giunta de' Poveri, Degli Allodiali, Del Lotto, Di Sicilia, Di Stato, Del Montiero, Proto Medicato, Azienda, Dé Presidij, Udienza dell' Esercito, De Castelli, Di Marina, Zecca-dé Pesi, &c.  
Terra di Lavoro is governed by Sopra Intendenti, royal governors of towns, and judges.  
The other provinces have presidents, viz. Principato citra, Principato ultra, Basilicata, Bari, Otranto, Abruzzo citra, Calabria citra, and Calabria ultra, have one each; Abruzzo ultra has two; and Capitanata and Molise one between them.  
At Foggia is the tribunal Della Dogana.
- Ecclesiastical government.** Twenty-one archbishoprics, and one hundred and ten bishoprics: of which, eight archbishoprics, and twenty bishoprics, are in the King's gift; the rest in the Pope's.
- Arms.** Azure, semée of fleur de luces, or; with a label of five points, gules.
- Orders of Knighthood.** Order of St. Januarius, bishop and martyr,—instituted by Charles, now King of Spain, in 1738. The number of Knights not positively fixed.



fixed. They wear a red ribbon, and a star on the left breast, with the image of the Saint in the centre; and the motto, *In Sanguine Fœdus*. The King confers the Cross of the Constantinian Order, as Duke of Parma.

Ferdinand the Fourth, by the Grace of God, King of Both Sicilies, Jerusalem, and Infant of Spain; Duke of Parma, Placentia, Castro, &c.; and hereditary Great Prince of Tuscany, &c. &c.

Titles of  
the King.

# I. TERRA DI LAVORO;

*anciently, Campania Felix.*

Derived from its fertility, or from the ancient <i>Campi Leborini</i> .	Name.
Azure, over 2 cornucopias; a crown, or.	Arms.
1,530,964 Moggie.	Extent.
In 1779, 1,210,989.	Inhabitants.
Garigliano, Voltorno, Saone, Clani, Sebeto.	Rivers.
Agnano, Averno, Fufaro, Licola, Patria, Fondi.	Lakes.
Ischia, Procida, Ponza, Ventotiene, S. Maria, Botte, Nisida.	Islands.
Naples, Baia, Gaeta.	Seaports.
Vesuvius, Epomeo, Camaldoli, Barbara, Nuovo, Tifata, Mattese,	Mountains.
St. Leo, St. Salvatore, Cecubo, Auroneo, Ofellio, Massico, Cassino,	
Attico, Nivoso, Cairo, Cefino, Seli, Ortafio, and Azo.	
1. Naples capital, archbishopric.	Principal Places.
2. Capua fortrefs, archbishopric.	
3. Bishoprics. Sora; Aquino, reduced to a hamlet, the bishop resides at the united see of Pontecorvo; Fondi; Alife, the bishop lives at Piedimonte; Venafro; Sessa; Calvi; Telese, the bishop resides at Cerreto; Teano; Caiazzo; Gaeta, a fortrefs; Caserta, the bishop lives at Caserta Nova, where the King has a palace; Aversa; Acerra; Nola; Pozzuoli; Ischia; Carinola.	

## 4. Monte

## GEOGRAPHICAL VIEW

4. Monte Cafino, the head convent of the Order of St. Benedict.
  5. Portici, St. Leuci, Cacciabella ; royal residences.
  6. Pompeii, Herculaneum, Cuma, Baiæ, Capua, Formiæ, Minturnæ, Sinuessa ; ruined cities.
  7. Vesuvius, Solfatara ; mountains emitting smoke or flame.
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## 2. PRINCIPATO CITRA ; or,

*Principality of Salerno, anciently inhabited by the Picentini and Lucani.*

Name.	In the year 851, the possessions of the Lombards were divided into two parts ; one of which obeyed the Prince of Salerno ; the other was subject to that of Benevento.
Arms.	Party per fefs, argent and fable ; a sailor's compass with 8 wings, argent ; in chief, a mullet, or.
Extent.	1,175,994 Moggie.
Inhabitants.	447,465.
Rivers.	Sarno, Sele, Battipaglia, Alento, Busento, Calore, Bianco, Negro, St. Gregorio.
Islands.	Capri, li Galli, Piana di Lacosa.
Seaports.	Castellamare, Salerno.
Mountains.	Toro, Canutario, Majano, Collo, Aquarro, Lattario, Sarno, St. Donato, Calpazzo, Lucano, Nero, Alburno, Civita, Calimarco, Cantena, Stella, Novi, Cavallara, Antillia, Bulgaria, Maddalena, Balzater, St. Onofrio, Aquila, Motulo, Cervati, Navarra, Petraro, Centaurino, Lagoroffo.
Principal Places.	1. Salerno presidency, archbishopric. 2. Amalfi, archbishopric. 3. Sorrento, archbishopric.

4. Bishop-



4. Bishopricks :—Nocera, Sarno, Vico, Massa, Capri, Cava, Let-  
tere, Castelamare, Acerno, Campagna cum Satriano, Capaccio, Poli-  
castro, Scala cum Ravello, Minori, Marfico Novo.

5. Pæstum, Stabia, Velia ; ruined cities.

6. Perfano, Castelamare ; royal seats.

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3. PRINCIPATO ULTRA ; or,  
*Principality of Benevento.—Samnites, Hirpini.*

Party per fefs, gules and argent ; on the 1st, a crown.	Arms.
664,280 Moggie.	Extent.
250,136.	Inhabitants.
Calore, Sabato, Tamoro.	Rivers.
Virgine, Taburno, Sabletta, Agnone, Termolo, Guleto, Paflagone, Irpino, Rumulo, Jarminio, Divoto, Voltore.	Mountains.
Anfanto.	Lake.
1. Benevento, archbishopric ; belongs to the Pope.	Principal Places.
2. Conza, archbishopric.	
3. Bishopricks :—St. Agata de' Goti ; St. Angelo de' Lombardi, cum Bifaccia ; Ariano ; Trevico, cum Vico della Baronía ; Avellino, cum Frigento ; Nusco ; Montemarano ; Lacedogna ; Monteverde, united to Canne and Nazareth.	
4. Montevergine, chief convent of the Virginian order.	
5. Montefusco, presidency.	
6. Eculanum, a ruined city.	

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4. BASILICATA.

*Lucania.*

From the Greek Emperor Basil II.	Name.
Barry wavy, of six, argent and azure ; in chief, an eagle's head crowned, gules.	Arms.

Extent.	1,605,047 Moggie.
Inhabitants.	325,682.
Rivers.	Bradano, Basiento, Salandrella, Acri, Sinno.
Lakes.	Iagonegro, Olmo.
Mountains.	Cafale, Croce, Funicchio, Pomazzo, Muro, Acuto, Rivezzone, Fondone, Maruggio, St. Martino, Carrafo, Vespe, Alpi, Raparo, Melaggioto, Sirino, St. Brancato, Noce Trecchina.
Principal Places.	1. Acerenza, archbishopric, united to Matera, where the presidency is held. 2. Bishoprics :—Melfi cum Rapolla, Montepeloso, Tricarico, Potenza, Anglona cum Turfi, Venosa, Muro. 3. Metapontum, Heraclea ; ruined cities.

## 5. CAPITANATA.

*Apulia, Daunia, Frentani.*

Name.	A corruption of Catapanata (the district under the Catapan, or Greek viceroy).
Arms.	Azure, on a mount, St. Michael, or.
Extent.	1,141,622 Moggie.
Inhabitants.	491,255.
Rivers.	Biferno, Fortore, Candelaro, Carapelle, Ofanto, Cervaro.
Lakes.	Lefina, Varano, Bataglia, St. Giovanni, Salpi.
Islands.	St. Domino, St. Nicola, Caprara, Cretaccio, Mergoli.
Seaports.	Manfredonia, Viesi.
Mountains.	Granato, Secco, Corvino, Pagano, Auro, Chilone, Bucculo, Liburno, Origine, Calvo, Sagro, Saracino, Barone, Condizzo.
Principal Places.	1. Manfredonia, archbishopric. 2. Bishoprics :—Lucera, presidency ; Viesi, San Severo, Larino, Troja, Termoli, Bovino, Volturara cum Monte Corvino, Ascoli. 3. Foggia, tribunal for duties on cattle.

4. Bosco



4. Bosco di Bovino, royal feat.
5. Monte St. Angelo di Gargano, a pilgrimage.
6. Sipontum, Arpi, Salapia, Herdonia; ruined cities.

## 6. COUNTY OF MOLISE.

*Samnium and Pentri.*

From a castle.	Name.
Gules within a garland of ears of corn, or; a bearded comet, argent.	Arms.
484,898 Moggie.	Extent.
Included in the enumeration of Capitanata.	Inhabitants.
Biferno, Fortore, Trigno.	Rivers.
Sangra, Janipro, Vallone, Rotaro, Biferno, Caprara, Bisano, Albano.	Mountains.
1. Bishopricks:—Bojano, the prelate resides at Campobasso; Guardia, Alfiera, Ifernina, Trivento.	Principal Places.
2. Campobasso, chief place of the county; Molise, a burgh, from whence the county takes its name.	

## 7. TERRA DI BARI.

*Apulia, Peucetia, and Pediculi.*

From the principal city.	Name.
Party per saltire, azure and argent; over all, a crozier, or.	Arms.
869,097 Moggie.	Extent.
281,048.	Inhabitants.
Ofanto, Cane.	Rivers.

Seaports.	Barletta, Trani, Bari, Molfetta.
Mountains.	Sanazzo, Femina Morta, Lupulo, Franco, St. Agostino.
Principal Places.	1. Bari, archbishopric. 2. Trani, archbishopric and presidency. 3. Barletta, residence of the archbishop of Nazareth. 4. Bishoprics:—Andria, Bisceglia, Ruvo, Bitonto, Monopoli, Gravina, Giovenazzo cum Terlizzi, Bitetto, Conversano, Molfetta, Polignano (the bishop's residence is at Mola), Minervino. 5. Egnatia and Canne, ruined cities.

## 8. TERRA DI OTRANTO.

*Messapia or Japigia, Calabria, Salentini.*

Arms.	Paly of 8, gules and or; over all a dolphin, with a crescent in his mouth, proper.
Extent.	1,377,102 Moggie.
Inhabitants.	290,915.
Rivers.	Bradano, Patimisco, Lieto, Chiatano, Tara, Galeso, Hidro.
Lake.	Limina.
Seaports.	Brindisi, Otranto, Taranto.
Mountains.	Hidro, Scotano.
Islands.	St. Andrea, St. Pelagia, Isola de Brindisi.
Principal Places.	1. Taranto, archbishopric. 2. Brindisi, archbishopric. 3. Otranto, archbishopric. 4. Bishoprics:—Lecce, presidency; Castellaneta, Gallipoli, Motula, Ugento, Castro, Nardo, Oria, Ostuni, Aleffano. 5. Manduriæ, Dupiæ, Rudii, Salentum; ruined cities.



## 9. CALABRIA CITRA.

*Lucania and Brutium.*

Given by the Greek Emperors, to perpetuate the memory of Name.  
ancient Calabria, which they had lost.

Argent, a cross potent, fable.

Arms.

1,605,463 Moggie.

Extent.

315,330.

Inhabitants.

Calandro, Cershiara, Raccanello, Cofcile, Crati, Esaro, Moccono, Rivers.  
Lucino, Celano, Celenito, Trionto, Fimarello, Aquanile, Fiomenica,  
Lipuda, Nieto, Savuto, Cleta, Solio, Bato, Lao.

Mauro, Provizia, Pollino, Cilisterno, Malaspina, Saffo, Caritore, Mountains.  
Muta, Ifauro, Coruzzo, Calaserna, Gigante, Macalla, Bovi, Scaccia  
Diavolo, Fumiero, Negro, del Calabrese, Patiati, Caperofa, Januario,  
Goliero, Porcina, Ilia.

1. Cofenza, archbishopric and presidency.

Principal  
Places.

2. Rossano, archbishopric.

3. Bishoprics :—Cariati cum Gerenza, Martorano, St. Marco,  
Bisignano, Umbriatico, Strongoli, Cassano.

4. Sibaris, Pandosia, Petilia ; ruined cities.

## 10. CALABRIA ULTRA.

*Brutium.*

Gironnee of 4 ; 1 and 4 Aragon ; 2 and 3 argent ; a cross potent, Arms.  
fable.

1,901,878 Moggie.

Extent.

460,392.

Inhabitants.

Nieto, Esaro, Pilaca, Dragone, Tacina, Nascaro, Acone, Litrello, Rivers.  
Alli, Corace, Allefi, Beltrana, Ancinale, Alaca, Calipari, Bruda,  
Pacanito,

Pacanito, Affa, Stilaro, Alaro, Calamizzi, Locano, Novito, Merico, Ciamuti, Bova, Alice, Gallico, Allecio, Sfalaffa, Metauro, Metramo, Mefima, Angitola, Amato.

- Seaports. Cotrone, Reggio.
- Mountains. Aspro, Zefirio, Pittaro, Sagittario, Sacro, Esopo, Caulone, Sagra, Jeio, Clibano, la Sibilla, Corvaro, Nerbo, Ordica, Pettinella.
- Principal Places.
1. Reggio, archbishopric.
  2. Santa Severina, archbishopric.
  3. Bishoprics:—Catanzara cum Taverna, presidency; Belcastro, Ifola, Bova, Oppido, Nicotera, Tropea, Gerace, Squillacce cum Stilo, Mileto, Cotrone, Nicastro.
  4. Locri, Hippona, Terina, Caulon, Croton; ruined cities:

## II. ABRUZZO CITRA.

*Samnium, Peligni, Marrucini, Frentani, Caraceni.*

- Name. From the city of Aprutium, the Prætutii, or the asperity of the country.
- Arms. Or, a boar's head with a yoke, gules.
- Extent. 917,052 Moggie.
- Inhabitants. 232,256.
- Seaport. Ortona.
- Rivers. Pescara, Lenta, Foro, Moro, Feltrino, Sangro, Sente, Afinella, Trigno, Merola.
- Mountains. St. Nicolà, Majella, Cavallo, Erminio, Prata, Morone, Argatone, Longo, Schienaforte, Marso, Caraccio, Capraro, Sorbo, Scoffoso, Pallana, Policorno.
- Principal Places.
1. Chieti, archbishopric and presidency.
  2. Lanciano, archbishopric.
  3. Bishoprics:—Sulmona cum Valve, Ortona cum Campli.
  4. Corfinium, ruined city.



## 12. ABRUZZO ULTRA.

*Marfi, Vestini, Prætutii.*

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Azure, an eagle displayed, or, on 3 hills, vert.                    | Arms.        |
| 1,311,476 Moggie.   | Extent.      |
| 345,825.  | Inhabitants. |
| Tronto, Librata, Salinello, Trontino, Vomana, Piomba, Salino,       | Rivers.      |
| Pescara, Salto, Velino.   |              |
| Celano.   | Lakes.       |
| Velino, Elvino, Fiore, Corno, Pietra Fiorita, Pietra Solida, Can-   | Mountains.   |
| dido, Nitella, Pietra Gentile, Calvo, Carosa, Pescchiolo, Saffuolo, |              |
| Gurguri, Rosetta, Moscie, Seno, Luco, Corbaro, Ducheffa, Accerella, |              |
| Carbonara, Grottolo, Turchio, Lampallo.                             |              |
| 1. Bishoprics:—Aquila, presidency; Teramo, presidency; Pes-         | Principal    |
| cina, residence of the bishop of the Marfi; Civita Ducale; Atri cum | Places.      |
| Penne.  |              |
| 2. Amiterno, Aveia; ruined cities.                                  |              |





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A

SHORT SKETCH

OF THE

HISTORY

OF THE

KINGDOM OF NAPLES.

---

I.

THIS Country has been celebrated from the earliest dawn of Grecian literature, and illustrated by many achievements of gods and heroes: some authors even lay the scene of the Giants' War in Campania, and prove their assertion by the fable of the Titans, who were buried under the neighbouring islands. As it is not likely that these stories should have originated entirely in the imagination of the poets, we may reasonably suppose some historical event afforded a canvas for them to work upon; and the most natural conjecture is, that the first adventurers, on their

B

landing

landing in Italy, met with a vigorous opposition from men of an extraordinary stature. From their taking refuge in sulphureous vallies and gloomy caverns, among burning mountains, the discoverers called them sons of the earth, and their abodes the mouths of hell.

All accounts of these primordial inhabitants are extremely imperfect; most probably the invaders drove them into the inland mountainous regions, where they became the parents of the Lucanians and other warlike nations.

Greeks. Divers tribes of Greeks planted colonies along the shores of the Adriatic and Mediterranean seas. Diomed is said to have founded Arpi, and Idomeneus Salentum, immediately after the Trojan war; and so many Greek settlements were made in the southern part of Italy, that it acquired the name of Magna Græcia.

These commonwealths experienced a variety of fortunes; sometimes they gave law to the people of the midland countries, at others were obliged to receive it from them. Alexander, king of the Molossians, passed over into Italy to support the cause of his countrymen; but, after a few brilliant campaigns, lost his life in a battle against the Lucanians. Not long after, the Bruttians, a people sprung from a set of outlaws, carried all before them, and gave their name to the province which is now called Farther Calabria. At length Rome turned her ambitious eye towards this extremity of the peninsula: in vain did the Bruttians resist her arms with obstinate valour; in vain did  
Pyrrhus



Pyrrhus from Epirus, and Hannibal from Carthage, check her progress at different periods; in the course of a few years, the fortunes of Rome prevailed over all opposition, Romans. and these countries submitted to the yoke of bondage with the rest of Italy.

## II.

As the Romans divided this district according to the various nations that composed it, the forms of government were as different as its inhabitants; some cities were made colonies, others ruled by magistrates sent from Rome, and a few indulged with their old republican constitution, subject to a tributary acknowledgment; but, sooner or later, the mode of deputing governors from the Capital was universally adopted.

Hadrian made a great change in the distribution; and, having divided Italy into provinces, formed four of them out of the present kingdom of Naples.

Some alterations took place under Constantine, but none very material.

After enjoying longer and greater tranquillity than any other department of the Roman empire, this country was over-run by the Visigoths, in the reign of Honorius. Upon the retreat of the invaders, who made no settlement here, these provinces were found to have suffered so excessively from the devastation, that it became necessary to remit their usual tribute. They had scarce recovered their losses, when

After Christ  
400.

## HISTORY OF NAPLES.

Genferic the Vandal laid them waste, and destroyed many of their most flourishing cities.

## III.

The final dissolution of the Roman empire now drew near, and the convulsions that shook it, in the last moments of its existence in the West, were too violent not to be severely felt in parts so near the centre. They accordingly shared largely in the common calamity.

Goths. The long prosperous reign of Theodoric, the Ostrogoth, allowed some respite to their misery, and was a period of happiness in the annals of Italy. After many vicissitudes of fortune, the Gothic sceptre was broken at the battle  
553. of Nocera; and Naples, with the adjacent provinces, returned to the obedience of the emperors of Constantinople.

## IV.

Lower  
Greek Em-  
pire.

In the course of the century that followed the destruction of the Goths, a very material change took place in political nomenclature, the source of many modern names and subdivisions of countries. In some degree, the foundation of the feudal system was laid by Longinus the Exarch, who, after abolishing the dignity of Consulars and Presidents, appointed in each city a Duke, and in every castle a Warden.

V. In



## V.

In 558, the eunuch Narses, a discontented general of the Emperor Justin, invited the Lombards into Italy, where they made themselves masters of those rich plains, to which they gave their own name. They did not penetrate into the Neapolitan state till the year 589, when their king Autharis marched down the heart of the country, as far as Rhegium, and founded the duchy of Beneventum. The reason of his making his invasion along the range of mountains that divides Italy into two parts, was, the invincible aversion his nation at all times betrayed for maritime enterprizes.

The Dukes of Beneventum became formidable potentates, and extended their dominion over all the southern provinces, except a few sea-ports, that remained faithful to the Greek Emperor, and governed themselves like commonwealths, under his protection. Beneventum survived the downfall of the Lombards in 774, when their monarchy was annihilated by Charlemagne; and two hundred and twenty-eight years after that event, princes of Lombard blood were still seated on the thrones of Capua, Salerno, and Benevento: But Puglia and Calabria obeyed the mandates of the Emperor of Greece.

## VI.

About the beginning of the eleventh century, forty Norman gentlemen, returning from the Holy Land, a pilgrimage

1002.  
Normans.

pilgrimage then coming into fashion, stopped at Salerno, where they were received with great hospitality by Guaimar, a prince of the Lombard line. During their stay at his court, a fleet of Saracens appeared off the harbour, and sent in a threatening message, to intimate that, unless they were immediately supplied with a large sum of money, they would land, sack the city, and lay the territory waste, as they had often done before. These Mahometan rovers were at that time the scourge of Italy : from strong settlements, formed by them on the river Garigliano, and in Sicily, they were wont to issue forth, in powerful fleets, to pillage and lay under contribution all the maritime places of a country too little united, and consequently too weak to make a proper resistance. Guaimar, conscious of his inability to repel them, set about collecting the ransom ; and the pirates landed on the beach, where they abandoned themselves to every species of riotous intemperance. The Normans, unaccustomed to behold such insults tamely submitted to, and esteeming it an eternal stain upon their honour, daftardly to stand by, and see their benefactors plundered by a set of ruffians, snatched up their arms, rushed out of the gates, and fell upon the Infidels with such impetuosity, that they put the greatest part of them to the sword ; the remainder fled to their ships, cut their cables, and immediately ran out to sea.

The grateful Salernitans would gladly have detained their gallant deliverers in Italy, but perceiving them bent upon  
returning



returning to their native country, dismissed them loaded with valuable presents.

The sight of these treasures, and the rapturous description given by the travellers of the Italian climate, excited the cupidity of other Normans, and tempted many to steer their course that way, in search of fortune. Ranulph headed the first emigration; and, having rendered many signal services to the Greek and Lombard princes, was allowed, for his recompence, to build and fortify Averfa, a small town in Campagna. This was the first settlement his nation made in these provinces, and served for many years as a rendezvous and refuge for the Normans on every emergency.

After him came the sons of Tancred of Hauteville, who in military renown left all their countrymen far behind them. Invincible wherever they lent their aid, and terrible to the effeminate Greeks and Italians, they were caressed and sought after by the petty sovereigns, whose dissensions then distracted this country. Maniaces, generalissimo of the Grecian forces, courted their friendship, and engaged them to assist him in the invasion of Sicily, at that time in the hands of the Saracens. With their help he obtained a complete victory over the Mussulmen, and might have achieved the conquest of the island, had he checked his national avarice and perfidy; but, while the Normans were intent upon the pursuit of the routed enemy, the Greek seized on all the spoil, and divided it among his own idle  
5 soldiers,

soldiers, without reserving any share for those who had earned it at the hazard of their lives. The Normans sent Ardwin to expostulate with him on the injustice of his mode of proceeding; but the messenger met with most ignominious treatment from him, was whipped round the camp, and sent back bleeding to his friends. At the sight of his wounds, the adventurers were worked up to a pitch of madness, and with loud cries were about to rush upon the Greeks, when Ardwin, whose deep-rooted resentment disdained a transient revenge, curbed this violence, and having explained his projects to their chiefs, persuaded them to withdraw secretly across the Faro of Messina. They were no sooner landed in Calabria, than they attacked the principal cities and castles of the Imperial province. In order to pursue their plan with regularity, they elected a chief, and united into one compact confederation. Their first leaders were of Lombard extraction, but they afterwards placed themselves under the direction of William Fierabras, the eldest of Tancred's sons.

After his death, they were governed successively by his brothers Dreux and Humphrey, who extended the Norman dominions very considerably; but the great founder of this dynasty was Robert, the fourth brother, surnamed Guiscard, or Wiscard, from his great skill and cunning. His conquests were rapid, and conducted with judgment; nor was his policy in the cabinet inferior to his valour in the field.



## VII.

To Robert, Pope Nicholas II. granted what it is hard to prove he had any right to dispose of, viz. the title of Duke of Puglia, with the perpetual sovereignty of that country; and also of Sicily, if he could conquer it. The truth is, these princes stood so much in need of each other's assistance, to enable them to resist the power of the Emperors, that it is no wonder they endeavoured to secure their mutual attachment by so many reciprocal concessions. Robert, who could not divine the fatal consequences his treaty was to have in future times, promised to the See of Rome an obedience and homage, which he had no intention of paying any longer than it might suit the situation of his affairs: and Nicholas found no difficulty in granting investitures of countries he had never been in possession of, and which he knew must fall into the hands of the Normans, whether he opposed or authorised their usurpation. Emboldened by the papal sanction, Robert and his younger brother Roger invaded Sicily, expelled the Saracens, and soon after completed the conquest of what is now called the kingdom of Naples. A family quarrel\* with the Emperor of Constantinople opened a new scene of action for Guiscard's restless spirit. After repeated victories, he penetrated into the very

Robert, first  
Duke.  
1059.

\* His daughter Helen, married to Constantine, son of the emperor Michael Ducas VII., had been sent back, and her husband shut up in a convent, by Nicephorus III.

heart of Greece, and threatened the throne of the eastern Cæsars with immediate destruction, when he was suddenly recalled to Italy by the danger of his friend the Pope. Robert flew to Rome, defeated and drove away the Emperor Henry IV., by whom the Pontiff had been reduced to the utmost distress, and having secured his ally from future insults, resumed his favourite scheme of subduing Greece; but there, in the height of his most promising success, his glorious career was cut short by a malignant fever.

1085.

Roger.

Roger, his son by a second wife, succeeded to his dominions, notwithstanding the claims of Bohemund, the offspring of a former marriage, who, finding himself unequal to a contest with his brother, supported by his uncle Roger earl of Sicily, accepted of the terms they offered. It was not long before an accident furnished him with an opportunity of being revenged of them both.

The city of Amalfi having taken advantage of the dissensions among the Normans, and attempted to recover its ancient independence, was invested by the joint forces of the three princes. To this siege came Peter the Hermit, to preach the first crusade, armed with papal benedictions, fired with zeal, and endowed with that ecclesiastical unction, and all-persuasive eloquence, which men, even in the most enlightened ages, are seldom able to withstand. At that barbarous æra, such a preacher was irresistible; his call was listened to, his predictions believed, his crosses



seized with eagerness. Bohemund, whether hurried away by the phrenzy of devotion and enterprize, or seduced by the desire of revenge, seconded the endeavours of the enthusiast, and, at the head of the flower of the army, marched off for Palestine, leaving his two relations before the walls, with scarce a sufficient force to secure their retreat.

Roger was succeeded by his son William, on whose demise without issue, all the Norman possessions in the two Sicilies devolved upon his cousin Roger, son of the first earl of Sicily aforementioned.

William.

1127.

## VIII.

This prince, disdaining the style of Duke, which he thought inadequate to the present fortunes of his house, assumed the title of King. The Pope, alarmed at the rapid progress of the Normans, and apprehensive of their proving an obstacle to his own private views of aggrandisement, called in the assistance of the emperor Lotharius, in order to check a power, which, if timely opposition were not made, might endanger the liberties of Italy. Lotharius marched a formidable army into the new-erected kingdom, and carried all before him; while Roger wisely retired from the storm, to collect his strength. The fury of the invaders was soon spent, and they wasted away with inaction and malady. The King harassed them in their retreat, recovered every post, drove the Germans out of the kingdom,

Roger, first King.

and having taken Pope Innocent II. prisoner, forced him to recognize his title, and grant him investiture.

1154. Roger then destroyed the shadow of independence which still existed in some maritime cities, invaded Africa, conquered Tunis, and afterwards made a successful invasion into Greece. He did not, however, confine his ambition to military renown, but was also attentive to the internal administration of affairs; and at his death left every department of government in so flourishing a state, that, as far as the feeble wisdom of man could foresee, he had just cause to hope that his throne was fixed upon a most immoveable basis. The consequence of supine negligence in his successor shewed how fallacious are all human projects, and how easy it is for mismanagement to overset the best concerted plans:

William I.

The second King was Roger's son William, an unhappy prince, though little molested by foreign enemies. Indolence gave him up a willing prey to wicked ministers; but whenever he was roused to action by attacks from abroad, the spirit of his ancestors rose within him, and he repelled every hostile assault with the courage of a Guiscard. The Pope and the Emperor pressed at one time very hard upon him, but he baffled all their attempts: had he been as successful at home, his reign would make a very different figure in the Sicilian chronicles from what it now does. Majone, his favourite, governed the nation in so oppressive a manner, that he provoked the barons to conspire against him.



him. They murdered the minister, imprisoned the monarch, and placed the crown on the head of his infant son. This unfortunate child being killed by a random arrow, the courage of the rebels sunk, William regained the sceptre, glutted his revenge with the blood of the conspirators, and passed the remainder of his days in melancholy peace. Depressed with misfortunes, sick of ambition, destitute of friends, and incapable of any laudable occupation, he arrived at length at such a pitch of apathy, as to forbid his attendants to inform him of any circumstance that might disturb his quiet. The consequences were, that, under the sanction of his authority, his officers exercised the most brutal tyranny with impunity; and William descended to the grave, detested by all good men, and branded for ever with the odious appellation of the Bad.

1167.

The factions among the great vassals disturbed the first years of his son William's reign; but when he grew up to manhood, all these turbulencies subsided. A mild, prudent, and equitable administration, added to the merit of boundless munificence to the church, and unshaken attachment to the See of Rome, procured for him the inestimable surname of the Good. The greatest proof that can be given how well he deserved this honourable epithet, is the desire which the Sicilians expressed, in all subsequent quarrels with their sovereigns, of having things put upon the same footing, and the laws exercised with the same impartiality, as they were in the days of Good King William. Not having  
any

William II.

any heirs of his body, and being desirous of preventing a civil war, he gave his aunt Constance, a posthumous child of King Roger, in marriage to Henry of Swabia, king of the Romans; and soon after died, having reigned twenty-three years in such profound peace and tranquillity, that historians, who delight more in tumultuous and bloody scenes, have neglected to transmit to us any particulars of the last ten years of his reign\*.

1189.

Tancred.

When this good king died, his appointed successors were absent, and the Sicilians, in defiance of the allegiance they had sworn to them, called to the throne Tancred earl of Lecce, natural son of Roger, elder brother of William I. This reign was short and turbulent; but the Germans would in all probability have been completely excluded, had Tancred, who was an excellent and valiant prince, lived long enough to settle himself on the slippery seat. Excessive grief for the loss of an accomplished and favourite son, on whom he had rested every fond hope of future joy and greatness, brought this affectionate parent to an untimely grave, and blasted at once all the budding fortunes of his family.

1192.

William III.

William, his surviving son, was too young and weak to resist the power of Henry, now become emperor, and assisted by the fickle barons. The unhappy youth was

\* Montagne says, ' Les bons historiens fuient comme une eau dormante et mer morte des narrations calmes pour regagner les séditions, les guerres, où ils savent que nous les appellons.'



obliged to surrender himself to his rival, who, contrary to his plighted faith, deprived him of liberty, fight, and manhood. 1194.

## IX.

Henry, who was a monster of cruelty, put to death every adherent of Tancred's, not even sparing the traitors, who had deserted William to join the Imperial standard. His mean brutality led him to dig up the body of Tancred, and expose it to the birds of prey. Sicily was laid waste, her churches plundered, her wealth transported into foreign countries, and her streets stained with the blood of her most distinguished citizens. But now the Sicilians perceiving that the Emperor was bent upon exterminating the whole Norman race, rushed to arms. An universal rebellion broke out, at the head of which appeared Constantia herself, unable any longer to bear with the inhumanity of her husband. Henry was driven out of the island, and forced to subscribe to the most humiliating terms of pacification. He did not long survive his disgrace; and the Empress died soon after, leaving the crown to Frederick, their only son, an infant. Swabians. Henry and Constantia. 1198.

A most disorderly minority ensued; but by the good management of Pope Innocent III., who ruled as regent and guardian to the young king, his dominions were preserved entire: and, as soon as he came of age, Frederick obtained the Imperial diadem by the influence of his kind tutor. Frederick I. II. as Emperor.

tutor. This cordiality between the two powers was but of short duration ; and their subsequent animosity was violent in proportion to the warmth of their former attachment. During a long course of years, they persecuted each other with unremitting malevolence : these dissensions embittered the best part of the Emperor's life, and laid a foundation for troubles and intestine commotions, which at length brought the house of Swabia to utter destruction. In hopes of pacifying the pontiff, Frederick embarked for the Holy Wars ; but scarce had he set foot in Palestine, when news was brought him that Gregory IX. had debauched many of the barons from their allegiance, and invaded the kingdom of Naples. The Emperor immediately patched up a peace with the Infidels, and returned to Italy. Surrounded by domestic enemies, pestered with papal anathemas, and worn out in counteracting their machinations, Frederick expired, not without some suspicion of poison, said to have been administered by his natural son Manfred ; but no satisfactory reasons have been given for suspecting him of this parricide.

1250.

Conrad.

As soon as the Emperor's death was known, the Pope renewed his attack, expecting to find the kingdom a defenceless prey ; but the sudden appearance of Conrad, son and heir of Frederick, overturned his projects. This young Emperor crushed the insurgents, stormed Naples, and exercised great cruelty upon his opponents. He reigned only four years ; and his death is also ascribed,

1254.

by



by the ecclesiastical writers, to their capital enemy Manfred.

Conradine, the only son of Conrad, being absent in Germany at the time of his father's death, the pope seized upon the kingdom; but Manfred, as regent, dispossessed him, and, a report being spread of Conradine's death, assumed the reins of government in his own name. The Roman pontiffs, finding themselves foiled in their military attacks by the superior skill of their adversary, and their spiritual thunderbolts of little avail against an enemy that screened himself behind the shield of incredulity, took another method, and offered the crown of Sicily to any prince that would drive out the present excommunicated possessor. The first that was found able to put this plan in execution was Charles of Anjou, brother to Lewis the Ninth king of France. He accepted the offer, whether solely urged by his own ambition, or pushed on by the vanity of his wife, who longed to be a queen as well as her sisters\*. He penetrated into the kingdom, and gained a decisive victory, at Benevento, over Manfred, who fell in the field of battle. Constance, daughter of this unfortunate prince, married Peter king of Aragon †.

\* The daughters of Raymund, Earl of Provence, were Margaret, married to Lewis IX. King of France; Eleanor, to Henry III. King of England; Sancha, to Richard Earl of Cornwall, and King of the Romans; and Beatrix, to Charles Earl of Anjou.

† It is remarkable, that their present Sicilian Majesties are both descended by Constantia from the heroic house of Swabia.

## X.

Angevines.  
Charles the  
First.

Charles no sooner thought himself firmly seated on his new throne, than he gave a loose to his natural temper, and ruled his subjects with a rod of iron. This usage provoked them to invite Conradine to the inheritance of his ancestors, but their good intentions served only to complete the ruin of the Swabian family. The unfortunate youth was defeated, betrayed, taken prisoner, and beheaded. His death did not, however, remain long unrevenged: Charles and his Frenchmen rendered their yoke so galling to the Sicilians, whose honour, property, and lives were become the sport of the licentious conquerors, that on Easter Tuesday, in the year 1282, the people of Palermo raised the standard of revolt. The whole island followed the example of the capital, and a general massacre ensued, in which every Frenchman but one\* was put to the sword without mercy: an event known in history by the name of the Sicilian Vespers. The insurgents offered the crown to Peter of Aragon; a long war ensued, in the course of which Charles met with nothing but misfortunes, and died of a broken heart.

1285.

Charles II.

Charles, his eldest son, was actually a prisoner at the time of his father's death: having recovered his liberty, and made many ineffectual attempts to drive the Aragonese out of Sicily, he concluded a peace with them, and, being

\* William Porcelet, whose life was spared in consideration of his virtue and justice.

a good



a good and moderate man, turned his whole attention towards the welfare and improvement of his kingdom of Naples.

1309.

He was succeeded by his second son Robert, though Robert, Charles Martel, king of Hungary, who was the eldest, and died before his father, had left children. Charibert, king of Hungary, put in his claim, upon which it was agreed by both parties, to submit to the umpirage of the Pope. The papal decree confirmed Robert in the possession. He has been accused of having poisoned his brother, in order to pave his way to the throne.

Being little molested by external enemies, his long reign was glorious and fortunate, as far as foreign affairs were concerned; but, in the circle of his own family, he was completely wretched. He had outlived his only son, and, with a view of preventing disputes about the succession, had given his grand-daughter and heiress Joan in marriage to Andrew of Hungary, a worthless prince, with whom she was likely to be very miserable. The foresight of approaching disasters oppressed his aged spirit, and hastened his dissolution.

1343.

Andrew soon became so hateful to his queen and her subjects, that a conspiracy was formed to take away his life: the murder was committed at Aversa. Modern authors pretend, that his wife was not privy to it; but I do not think their proofs sufficient to refute the arguments of those cotemporaries that lay it to her charge. Her widow-

Joan the First.

hood was short: Lewis of Taranto, of the blood royal, a prince endowed with many good qualities, was her second husband. He and Joan were obliged soon after to fly before the king of Hungary, who invaded Naples, to revenge his brother's murder, and put several nobles to death on that account. The Hungarian being recalled by domestic tumults to his own dominions, Joan returned to Italy. Her third husband was James of Aragon; and her fourth, Otho of Brunswick. Being now far advanced in years, and past all hopes of having children, she instituted her relation, Charles of Durazzo, her heir. This prince, jealous of the designs of Otho, doubtful of the queen's steadiness, and impatient to be in possession of the crown, assembled an army, attacked Naples, took the queen prisoner, and is supposed to have put an end to her existence.

1382.

## XI.

Durazzians.  
Charles III.

When Charles invaded her dominions, Joan had no commander of eminence to oppose to him: she therefore called to her aid, and adopted, Lewis of Anjou, son to John, king of France; but he came too late to prove of any service to his ill-fated benefactress. However, he secured to himself the quiet possession of her French territories, and was in a fair way of conquering the Neapolitan ones, when he fell sick and died.

Charles, though peaceable possessor of Naples, could not rest satisfied with his good fortune, but listened to the invitation



invitation of the Hungarian malcontents, who wished to depose Mary, the only child of his old friend and protector, King Lewis. He agreed to their proposals, went to Hungary, and was proclaimed king; but, not long after, the young queen's party recovered from their consternation, and assassinated him in the palace.

1386.

The kingdom of Naples alone descended to his infant son Ladislaus, during whose non-age every thing was in perpetual ferment. On coming of age, he found the Angevines masters of three-fourths of the realm; and to recover them out of their hands, required all his courage and good fortune. He afterwards took a leading part in the troubles of Italy, tyrannized over Rome, dictated to most of the petty potentates, and attempted to conquer Hungary. The pope, alarmed at his prosperity, called in Lewis the Second, of Anjou, who defeated the Durazzians at Ceparano, and, had he known how to make use of his victory, would have ruined their party beyond redemption; but, having loitered away his time, instead of pursuing his advantage, he gave his adversary an opportunity of collecting fresh forces, and gaining such a superiority as was no longer to be resisted. Ladislaus, delivered from enemies at home, and an over-match for those abroad, gave himself up to pleasure, and shortened his days by excess of debauchery.

Ladislaus.

1414.

His only sister, Joan, succeeded him: a woman more noted for her lasciviousness than any princess since Messalina.

Joan the Second.

lina, without one virtue to balance her vices; a slave to lust and vile favourites, her life was a continual round of riot, distress, and civil turmoils. At the age of forty-seven, and much against her will, the clamours of the people forced her to contract a second marriage, and take to her bed the Count of La Marche, who aimed at absolute dominion, and used her with great severity. She plotted with Sforza, an adventurer, recovered the reins of government, and sent her husband back to France. Joan was scarce rid of this incumbrance, when another opponent started up. This was a third Lewis of Anjou, who carried on his attack with such vigour, that the queen was under the necessity of applying for succour to Alphonfus, king of Aragon and Sicily, whom she adopted. No sooner had the Spaniard deprived the Angevines of the power of giving her uneasiness, than the fickle old woman grew tired of her adopted son, revoked the deed of gift, and bestowed the reversion upon Lewis, her former antagonist. Alphonfus was driven out of the kingdom, and seemed to have laid aside all thoughts of adding Naples to his hereditary dominions, when the death of Joan and Lewis left the kingdom once more open to his attack; but it was not without a long struggle, and much bloodshed, that he achieved the conquest.

1435.

## XII.

Aragonese.  
Alphonfus I.

The crowns of the two Sicilies being thus re-united upon one brow, these desolated provinces were by degrees restored



stored to peace and opulence : blessings to which they had been long strangers. This great prince died without legitimate issue, having survived Joan twenty-three years. Sicily and Aragon devolved to his brother John, king of Navarre ; and Naples, by virtue of a previous agreement, fell to his natural son Ferdinand.

1458.

The reign of Ferdinand the First was long, but not happy, being disturbed by two dangerous rebellions, which shook his throne to the centre, though he triumphed over them both. By every method, which victory and breach of faith could enable him to pursue, he exterminated the principal families engaged in those revolts ; but their spirit survived, prepared, and enforced the blow that so suddenly and irresistibly overwhelmed his successor. Ferdinand, however, died in peace, and was succeeded by his son,

Ferdinand I.

1494.

Alphonfus the Second, a man of great military fame, but of a most sanguinary temper, the instigator and actor of all the treacheries and cruelties that sullied his father's annals. Chastisement was not tardy in overtaking him ; for he had scarce held the sceptre a few months, before Charles the Eighth, king of France, as heir to the house of Anjou, marched to Naples at the head of a formidable army. On his approach, Alphonfus was struck with such a panic, that, forgetful of honour and interest, he abdicated his crown, left his son to make the best defence he could,

Alphonfus  
the Second.

1495. could, and fled to Sicily, where he soon died of shame and despair.

Ferdinand  
the Second.

Ferdinand the Second retired before the enemy, while Charles made his triumphal entry into the capital. This blaze of French glory was, like a wintry sun, glaring and transitory. Charles returned to France, and Gonsalvo, the great Spanish captain, reinstated Ferdinand in all his possessions. Unfortunately he did not live long enough to restore any degree of firmness to the tottering fortunes of his family.

1496.

Frederick  
the Second.

Upon his decease, his uncle Frederick succeeded: a learned good prince, and worthy of a better fate. He was overpowered by a confederacy entered into by Ferdinand the Catholic, king of Spain, and Lewis the Twelfth, king of France, to seize upon and divide the kingdom of Naples between them. The execution of the project was easy for two such powerful monarchs; and Frederick, bereft of friends and hopes, surrendered up his person to Lewis, expecting better treatment at his hands, than at those of his perfidious cousin of Aragon. But he had little reason to rejoice at the trust he had reposed in French generosity; for he was confined the few remaining years of his life at Tours, while his wretched family was left to wander about the world hopeless and unbefriended.

1504.



## XIII.

The unnatural compact between these kings could not long hold together, as fraud and violence were its foundation. Matters were soon embroiled, and war ensued; the French were expelled, and both shares irrecoverably secured to Ferdinand. At his death, Naples, with all his other dominions, passed to his grandson

Ferdinand  
the Third.

1516.

## XIV.

Charles of Austria, afterwards emperor of the Romans, the fifth of the name.

Austrians.  
Charles the  
Fourth.  
Fifth as Em-  
peror.

1556.

During this, and every succeeding reign of the Austrian family, these kingdoms were governed by viceroys, and seldom honoured with the presence of their sovereign. The oppressions of the governors, the complaints of the people, and outrages of the barons; the depredations of the Turks, French, or banditti, were the only interruptions to the public peace, till the year 1647, when a famous insurrection broke out. Masaniello, the leader of the sedition, stirred up the mob of Naples, on account of some duties laid upon fruit, drove the viceroy into the castle, and, for a few days, strutted the dictator of the Neapolitan republic. On his being murdered, things returned quietly to their wonted channel. About this time, the duke of Guise came to Naples, and endeavoured to make himself

Philip king  
of Spain the  
Second.

1598.

Philip the  
Third.

1621.

Philip the  
Fourth.  
1665.

E

king;

king ; but his enterprize failed for want of support from France.

Charles the  
Second.  
1700.

Thus fatigued with every disquiet and inconvenience incident to a delegated administration, Naples continued to obey the Spaniards with a heavy heart, until the extinction of the Austrian line in 1700 opened a new field for litigation.

### XV.

Bourbon.  
Philip the  
Fifth.

The great contest for the inheritance of Charles the Second changed the whole political system of Italy. Naples, at first, was occupied by Philip of Bourbon ; but, in 1706, was conquered by the Austrians, and at the peace of Utrecht, in 1713, confirmed to the emperor Charles the Sixth.

Austrians.  
Charles the  
Sixth.

### XVI.

Bourbon.  
Charles the  
Seventh.

In 1734, Elizabeth, second wife of Philip the Fifth, king of Spain, being ambitious of procuring a settlement for her son Don Carlos, caused Spain to engage in a war with the emperor ; the event of which was, that the Infant conquered Naples, and, by the treaty of peace, was left in full possession, with the title of King of the Two Sicilies.

Ferdinand  
the Fourth.

In 1759, on the death of Ferdinand the Sixth of Spain, Charles succeeded to the Spanish crown, and resigned his Sicilian dominions to his third son, Ferdinand the Fourth, now reigning. Philip, the eldest, was set aside for idiotism ;



ism ; and Charles, the second, taken by his father to Madrid as prince of Asturias, and heir apparent to the Spanish monarchy.

N. B. As any discussion of chronological doubts would have been absurd in an abridgment of history, I have fixed all epochas at the most probable dates.





A  
V O Y A G E  
FROM  
M A R S E I L L E S  
TO  
N A P L E S,  
1776.

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S E C T I O N I.

**T**HE season of the year being far advanced, and the Alps covered with snow, I thought it unadvisable with a family to undertake a journey into Italy by land; and therefore, in company with S. T. G., hired a French polacre at Marfeilles, and embarked for Naples on the 17th of December 1776.

The getting under sail was tedious, as the currents obliged us to tow out from buoy to buoy; but when once clear of the land, we went at a prodigious rate, before a

5 brisk

brisk north-west wind, which in the evening increased to a storm.

All that night, and the ensuing day, the gale continued, and drove us on very fast. As the sea was rough, and the waves short, the irregular jerks and tossings of our ship kept us in perpetual alarms; but fortunately it was tight and well built. The Alps, immersed in snow, appeared on the left hand, about four leagues off, rising out of the waters to a wonderful height: the sea ran so high, that we could discern nothing near their base. About sun-set, we got under the shelter of Cape Corfo, the N. E. point of Corsica, and lay-to all night in still water. By this delay, we lost the opportunity of passing through the straits of Piombino; for, before morning, the boisterous MAESTRAL sank into a very dull zephyr, which faintly brought us to the island of Elba, and there left us in a dead calm. We were towed into the harbour of Porto-Ferraio, where Mons. de Langres, the governor, a native of Lorraine, received us with great politeness, and contributed every thing in his power to make our involuntary visit to his port less irksome.

The island of Elba, known to the Greeks by the name of Aithalia, and to the Romans by that of Ilva, has been renowned for its mines from a period beyond the reach of history. Aristotle speaks of them as opened from time immemorial, and Virgil brings a succour to Æneas of three hundred men from

Ilva,





PORTO FERRAIO.





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Ilva,  
*Infula inexhaustis chalybum generosa metallis\**.

It lies about ten miles S. W. from Tuscany, in latitude  $42^{\circ} 50'$ . Its figure is that of an equilateral triangle. Pliny gives it a circuit of an hundred miles. Late geographers allow only fixty to its circumference; but, as no map has yet been made upon exact observations, and as the circuit would be much more considerable, if every creek and inlet were measured, perhaps the Roman mensuration may come nearer the truth than the modern one. The difference might even be accounted for by the encroachments of the sea, and by the tumbling in of the rocks, which are, in many places, of a mouldering contexture.

Being extremely mountainous, Elba affords but scanty room for cultivation, and produces little more than six months provision of corn for its seven thousand inhabitants. It is said to have been peopled from Volterra, in very ancient times, the capital of Tuscany, and perhaps of all Italy.

The property is at present divided between the Prince of Piombino, who possesses the largest share; the King of Naples, to whom Porto-Longone belongs; and the Great Duke of Tuscany, who is master of Porto-Ferraio.

The climate is much milder than that of the adjacent continent; for Elba produces many plants and fruits that cannot stand the Tuscan winters.

\* "Elba, an island rich in inexhaustible mines of steel."

The south-west part of the island is the most elevated, and consists of lofty unfruitful mountains, composed of black and white granite susceptible of a fine polish. In an old quarry, on the south shore, may be seen several pillars and basons roughly hewn, and left unfinished. The columns of the cathedral of Pisa are said to have been cut out of these rocks. Under this granite is a stratum of slate.

The N. E. and S. E. parts are chiefly argillaceous slate and iron-stone, with a quarry of grey marble, and some veins of serpentine. Amianthus is frequent among the shivery rocks. Near the N. E. point is the hill, or mine of iron ore, belonging to Rio, which supplies most of the forges of Italy. At the S. E. cape is the Monte della Calamita, so called from the loadstone with which it abounds. This is the *magnes colore fusco rubente* of the mineralogists, and appears to be a ferruginous substance that has passed through a very violent fire without vitrification. The efficient of magnetism still remains in the unfathomed depths of nature's first causes. Mons. de Buffon defines it, a constant effect of electricity produced by the interior heat, and the rotation of the globe; but if it depended on no other cause, we should not experience such variation in the compass. The best magnets in Elba are found near the sea; but to come at strong ones, the ground must be dug into: because the air, or the rays of the sun, eat out the force of those that lie long exposed to them on the surface. The earth, mixed with these stones, is full of martial

martial particles, which stick to the pick-axe in the shape of little tufts of bristles. The layer that supports the magnetic heaps is a blue whetstone slate, with a small mixture of calcareous stones. At the bottom of the mountain is found a bole, vulgarly named *white loadstone*, not from any real attractive virtue, but from a roughness that causes the tongue to adhere to it. It was formerly much worn as a charm by lovers, and supposed to draw, with great force, the affections of the beloved object towards the wearer.

The soil of Elba is very shallow, with few places level enough for corn. The wine is good, if made with care, and properly kept; the fruit of its standard trees is said to be exquisite; orange and lemon trees seem to thrive very well in the sheltered vallies and narrow plains near the sea.

About four thousand tons of salt are made near Porto-Ferraio, which has likewise a tunny fishery, worth annually to the Grand Duke one thousand three hundred pounds Sterling. The Prince of Piombino has another at Marciana, that clears one thousand pounds per annum.

Porto-Ferraio \* is a very pretty town, built on a shelving rock that closes in a large circular bay; the land all

\* It was called Portus Argous from Argo, the ship of Jason, which the confused traditionary legend of the ancients brought out into the Mediterranean, that Medea might have an opportunity of communing with her sister sorceress Circé. Homer, in his *Odyssæy*, informs us, that, by the particular favour of Jove, this celebrated ship passed unhurt through the Straits of Scylla and Charybdis.



around is high and woody; the entrance of the bay wide, and easy to hit; but so open to the N. E. winds, that, when they blow with violence, there are few anchoring-places where a ship can ride in security. The streets and fortifications rise one above another, like rows of seats in an ancient amphitheatre, and present a most beautiful spectacle to those that approach by water. To the sea, nothing appears but the two citadels, Stella and Falcone. All the upper range of works is cut out of the rock into vaults and intricate communications. In the centre of the semicircle, is a smaller port or *darfena* for boats and galleys, defended by a couple of bastions, and shut up every evening with a boom. A commodious quay communicates with all the streets, by means of large flights of steps.

Elba was held with Piombino by the Appiani as a fief of the empire, till Charles the Fifth thought proper to transfer it to Cosmo the first duke of Florence, that he might secure it and the adjacent coast from the insults of the Turks and French, which the preceding feudatory was not in a condition to repel. The duke built Ferraio in 1548; but it was not brought to the present state of perfection before the reign of Cosmo the Second, who completed these fortifications in 1628, with a magnificence equal to that displayed by the old Romans in their public undertakings. The gates are decorated with sculpture, and the rings for fastening cables to are of carved bronze. The garrison is small, and the artillery trifling, for so  
large

large a fortress; but the neutrality of its master is its present security, and renders a stronger force unnecessary.

## SECTION II.

THERE being no appearance of a favourable change in the wind, we made an excursion to the iron mines.

We crossed the bay, and ascended the mountain by a very rugged path. The gullies that seam its sides are full of orchards, with some few orange-trees, cut to pieces and stunted by the N. W. wind. The waste is covered with myrtle, laurustinus, lentiscus, arbutus, and many other flowering shrubs. The summit of these mountains is bare of wood, but not of verdure.

On a shaggy rock stands the Tower of Voltoraio, where six soldiers defend the frontiers of the Tuscan State, marked out by stones placed in angular directions along the top of the ridge that encompasses the bay of Porto-Ferraio. The view from this Tower is wonderfully fine every way, as the eye overlooks the whole island, that of Corsica, many scattered islets, the channel of Piombino, and a great range of continent.

We descended on the east side of the mountain to Rio, a poor village inhabited by miners. Under it breaks out the only rivulet in Elba, which does not run above a mile

before it falls into the sea ; but the water gushes out of the rock in such abundance, that it turns seventeen mills in that short course. We followed this pretty stream down a narrow vale, cultivated with great nicety, and planted with orange and other fruit-trees, till it brought us to the celebrated iron mine.

This mine is not, like most others, composed of ferruginous strata, or of pieces of ore dispersed among heterogeneous substances, in horizontal streaks or accidental lumps, which are come at with difficulty, by means of galleries, engines, and deep pits ; on the contrary, it forms one large hill of solid ore, worked in three terraces, after the manner of a fine quarry of stone, by clearing away the top, and hewing or blasting the rock, till it drops in shivers into the area, from whence it is wheeled to the place of sale. The circumference of this iron hill is near three miles, and the depth of the ore to the flaty foundation about three hundred feet. Where it has not yet been touched, or has lain undisturbed many years, vines and other plants grow tolerably well on the surface, and are said by Kœstlin\* to contain particles of iron in their leaves and stems, as may be discovered by calcination. If this were really the case, which I very much doubt, it would give a greater degree of credibility to the stories told in Hungary, where bits of gold are shewn adhering to the

\* A German physician, who published an account of Elbá in 1780.



stalks and grapes of the Tokay vines, supposed to have been drawn out of the ground by the plant in the course of vegetation.

The place where the present works are carried on resembles a funnel with one side broken down. About seven hundred pounds weight of gunpowder are consumed annually in blasting, and one hundred and six men constantly employed with the pickaxe or barrow. From a scarcity of wood, none of the ore is smelted on the island, but is sold to the agents of the Tuscan, Roman, Corsican, and Neapolitan furnaces, at the rate of fifty-one crowns *per cento*; a weight consisting of thirty-three thousand three hundred and thirty-three pounds and an half each. The Corsicans and Tuscans have a right to pick the ore, for which they pay an additional price. All others take it unsorted, and, with every parcel of large ore, are obliged to take a tenth part of the refuse: the two privileged traders have a fifth.

This ore is beautiful, abounding in rainbow shoots and cristallisations; but although it appears to the eye and the feel to be almost one solid mass of iron, it is by no means so rich as many iron ores in the north of Europe, and hardly yields half its weight in pure metal.

It is a doubt, whether this mine of Rio be the same mentioned by Aristotle, and other ancient authors, to have been open in their time, but it is generally believed to be so. Pini, who in 1777 gave a dissertation on Elba, makes  
a cal-

a calculation to prove, that it is possible these mines may have been continually wrought since that very distant period, without being more exhausted than we see them. He supposes the present area, where the ore is dug, to be a cylinder of five thousand feet in circumference, upon a depth of two hundred feet, capable of containing three hundred and ninety-seven millions seven hundred and twenty-seven thousand cubic feet of earth or ore, of which only one third part, or one hundred and thirty-two millions five hundred and seventy-five thousand six hundred and sixty-six two thirds is to be assigned to the solid mineral; that each cubic foot of ore weighs four hundred and eight pounds; and therefore, that the whole weight of the ore hitherto dug out amounts to fifty-four thousand and ninety millions eight hundred and seventy-two thousand pounds. Now, for many years back, the annual exportation has not exceeded forty-one millions six hundred and sixty-six thousand two hundred and fifty pounds weight; by which computation it appears, that it would require one thousand two hundred and ninety-eight years to work out a quantity equal to what may be contained in the above-mentioned area. But as the Steward assured me, he did not sell, upon an average, more than thirty-five millions of pounds weight a year, the allowance made by Pini is too great by near a seventh. Besides, much more copper was used anciently in arms and utensils than at present; gunpowder was unknown,

known, and consequently greater difficulties attended the miner's art. The ore of Elba was probably smelted at no other place than that from which it derived its name, *Populonium*; and therefore we may believe, that a much smaller quantity than thirty-five millions was annually extracted; consequently the mine could not be worked down to its actual state in so short a term as one thousand two hundred and ninety-eight years. The extent of the part yet untouched will afford employment for many ages to come, notwithstanding the greater expedition used in modern metallurgy. The Prince of Piombino, to whom these treasures belong, receives from the sale, *communibus annis*, about forty thousand Roman crowns (nine thousand five hundred and twenty-three pounds Sterling), clear of all expences.

The ancients were of opinion, that the ore was reproduced in a course of years by a species of vegetation; and such has been the sentiment of some moderns, who allege, that many pickaxes, and other implements, have been found in old workings, covered with an incrustation of iron. As none of these tools have been met with in the heart of the virgin rock, but always in the trenches, where the shiver of old grooves has been thrown, the crust gathered round them is no proof of the regeneration of iron. It is plain, that this coat is not produced by the same causes that create an increase of bulk in plants, viz. the accession of proper food and juices assimilating themselves to the  
plant,



plant, and becoming part of it. This incrustation is no more than the junction of innumerable minute particles of iron dispersed in the rubbish of the works, which run together, and by length of time consolidate into a mineral mass.

### SECTION III.

ON the twenty-second, a faint breeze carried us out of the harbour of Porto-Ferraio, into the channel that divides Elba from the Tuscan coast.

The captain assured me, that the compass was of no use in steering a ship within four leagues of Elba, as the needle veered about continually with great irregularity. Some authors deny the existence of any such attraction in the island, or even its possibility; others are of opinion, that if this attractive power exist, it can be perceptible only on the side where the mines lie, and that a vessel must be very near the island to be within the reach of its magnetic action. Without attempting to argue the point, I shall content myself with mentioning, that I perceived the utmost confusion and variation in the needle most part of the day, though we constantly kept at the distance of a league from Elba.

The wind was low and unsettled, and twenty-four hours passed in tacks. This delay, and the fineness of the weather,

ther, afforded leisure to examine the coast of Tuscany, which is flat and woody, backed at a great distance by the mountains of Sienna; those of Montenero, near Leghorn, bound the horizon to the north; and on the south quarter, the ridge behind Orbitello, with the insulated promontory of Monte Argentato, closes the prospect. The channel is about ten miles wide; but, from the clearness of the atmosphere, does not appear to be more than five. Some small islands dispersed in the passage, the high lands of Elba, the city of Piombino, and a great variety of vessels sailing in all directions, composed a most delightful marine piece, worthy of the pencil of a Claude or a Vernet.

Piombino, built on the point of a little bay, is the capital of a principality formerly belonging to the republic of Pisa, and on the destruction of that commonwealth, occupied by private usurpers. From the fifteenth century, it was possessed by the Appiani family, which became extinct in the reign of the Emperor Ferdinand the Second. He seized upon it as an imperial escheat; and in 1634, sold it to Nicholas Ludovisi, nephew to Pope Gregory the Fifteenth. A grand-daughter of Nicholas carried the estate and honours into the house of Buoncompagno, Duke of Sora.

Not far from hence stood the ancient city of Populonia, a colony of the Volterrans, and one of the first cities built in Italy near the sea-coast. After the fall of the Roman empire, this place became a prey to the Goths and Lom-

G

bards:



bards ; and at last, Charlemagne made the Pope a present of it, who did not long enjoy the advantages of the donation ; for in 809, some lawless tribes of mountaineers levelled Populonia with the ground.

In the morning of the twenty-third, so strong a gale sprang up in the S. E. that we were glad to run into Porto Longone, to avoid being blown through the channel back to the coast of France.

Porto Longone is a considerable fortress, begun in 1606, and completed in thirty years. Cardinal Mazarin, with a view of disturbing the Spaniards in their communication with Italy, and of mortifying the Pope, whom he knew to be a zealous partisan of Spain, sent the Marechal de la Meilleraie, in 1646, with a fleet and army, to attack Piombino and Porto Longone. The former was carried in a few days, and the latter obliged to capitulate after a fortnight's siege. Both places were retaken, in 1650, by Don John of Austria.

It is now garrisoned by Neapolitan troops, as being annexed to the crown of the Two Sicilies, with the rest of the Tuscan Presidii, since Philip the Fifth ceded to his son Don Carlos all his claims upon that kingdom. It stands upon the north-east promontory of a large bay. At the bottom of this bay, a projecting rock, with a small castle upon it, defends and hides the entrance of the harbour, a pleasant and well-sheltered cove. At the foot of the hills are small vallies full of cottages and vineyards, intersected  
by



*St. John del*



*J. Russell sculp.*

PORTO LONGONE.





by gravel paths, and inclosed with hedges of arbutus, which, at this season of the year, are rendered particularly beautiful by the scarlet berries that almost cover the bushes. On the south side is a fine well under the rock, where ships send their boats to take in water.

#### SECTION IV.

ON the twenty-fourth, the wind coming about to the northward, and the weather setting-in fine, we hoisted anchor and sailed, much against the will of our crew, who had promised themselves a pleasant trip on shore, to hear midnight mass, and make a Christmas supper. There does not exist a more dilatory race of mariners than the Provençals. If they were not prevented by supercargoes and passengers from indulging their loitering disposition, they would call at every port in their track, and waste time in each of them. The captains of these vessels eat out all their profits in harbour, and not one in a hundred dies worth a groat.

In the afternoon, we descried to the west the little island of Pianosa, the ancient Planasia, remarkable for the exile and death of Agrippa Cæsar, the posthumous son of Marcus Agrippa and Julia. His indiscretion and rough behaviour furnished Livia with the means of ruining him



in the opinion of his grandfather Augustus, who annulled his adoption, confiscated his estates, and sent him into this place of banishment. At the end of eight years, Augustus paid him a secret visit, which being made known to Livia, roused her fears lest Agrippa should be recalled, and appointed successor to the Imperial throne. To avert so fatal a blow to her hopes, she hastened the end of the superannuated Emperor, and sent a centurion to murder the exiled Prince. Agrippa, naturally intrepid and robust, made an obstinate resistance, though attacked unawares, and fell covered with wounds, the first victim of the bloody reign of Tiberius.

We soon after sailed between the mainland and the islands of Giglio and Giannuti\*, small granite rocks, covered with bushes and uninhabited.

The wind was now very fair, and we might have made much way, had not our captain been so terrified with an appearance of bad weather to windward, that he instantly put the helm about, and ran in towards the road of Telamon; but as soon as we perceived his intention, we obliged him to resume his original course, having learnt from one of the sailors, who was perfectly acquainted with the navigation of these seas, that if we reached that bay, and a storm came on, we should have the vexation of tossing about at anchor, in imminent danger, for several days,

\* Igillium & Dianium.

without a possibility of landing. All these manœuvres took up a great deal of time, and made us lose the benefit of the breeze. During the next thirty hours, we were under the necessity of standing out to sea in a heavy swell, in order to keep clear of the Spiaggie Romane, a lee-shore, extending thirty-six leagues to the south, and extremely dangerous with a westerly or S. W. wind, as it is not discernible at a distance, and the sands are said to reach out near seven leagues from the land.

We steered a S. W. coast from Giglio, with a very hard gale and a terrible sea, for at least twenty-four leagues, a very unnecessary elbow. The night was squally, the waves short and furious; our polacre rolled like a barrel, with such violent, uneven, and sudden shocks, that it was impossible to be prepared against them. The confidence we had in the soundness of her timbers supported our spirits in such a tremendous situation; but two alarming circumstances happened in the night, that would have startled older and bolder seamen than we were. Our horses, that stood in stalls upon deck, broke loose, and were with difficulty secured; our kitchen took fire, but we luckily extinguished the flames before they got a-head. The return of day-light afforded but a dreary prospect: a raging tumbling sea, a rolling ship, scarce able to carry any sail, and no land in sight. We passed twelve hours very unpleasantly, beating back in a S. E. direction for the coast of Italy; and I think I never heard a sound more grateful  
to



to my ears, and relieving to my spirits, than the voice of the boy, who about sunset called out from the mast-head, that he saw Cape Circelli\*. We were now past all danger from the Roman coast; the wind was fallen, and though it was extremely cold, and snowed all night, the sight of land made us quite happy and reconciled to every inconvenience.

Before day-break, we were called up to behold the flames issuing out of Mount Vesuvius, a new and striking scene to us all. This welcome to Naples was doubly agreeable, as being unexpected; for at this time of the year, we did not imagine there would be an eruption. Snow and haziness soon deprived us of the view. It fell a dead calm off a cluster of islands, called, from the largest among them, the Ponza Isles. There is tolerable anchorage and a town at Ponza, which was a Roman colony, where Tiberius caused Nero, son of Germanicus, to be starved to death. The ashes of this unfortunate Prince were removed to Rome by his brother Caligula, who, not long after, banished his sisters Julia and Agrippina to the same spot. Among the writers of martyrology, Ponza is famous for the exile and death of Flavia Domitilla, a re-

\* This is a high insulated mountain, at the southern extremity of the Pomptine Marshes, in the Ecclesiastical State, renowned in fable for having been the residence of the Enchantress Circé, who transformed men into brutes, and whose connections with Ulysses are described by Homer in the tenth and twelfth books of his *Odyssæy*.



lation of Domitian, and one of the most distinguished profelites of the infant church of Christ.

Most part of the day was spent in weathering Ventotiene, a small island at some distance E. of Ponza. It is a rock formed of vulcanical matter thrown up by fire, as the observations of Sir William Hamilton sufficiently demonstrate. The layers of its cliffs are tinged with very remarkable red and yellow streaks. The ancients called it Pandataria, and made use of it as a receptacle for criminals of an exalted rank. Julia, the daughter of Augustus, was confined here with her repudiated mother Scribonia, who, from mere maternal tenderness, followed her daughter to this desert, a voluntary exile. After ten years miserable existence on this rock of desolation, the unhappy Julia was removed to the coast of Rhegium, where she died of hunger.

Pandataria, which had been the prison of the wanton Julia, became, not many years after, the place of confinement allotted to her virtuous daughter Agrippina. The spotless reputation of this matron, joined to the memory of her injured husband Germanicus, had rendered her and her children objects of love and hope to the Roman people, and consequently of jealousy and hatred to Tiberius. To quiet his apprehensions, and crush at once all the expectations Rome might cherish of seeing better days, the tyrant caused the young Princes to be murdered, and their mother to perish in Pandataria, through ill usage, and the want of every necessary of life. Caligula, her only surviving son, brought

brought her ashes from the island, and deposited them with great solemnity in the Augustan Mausoleum.

At the instigation of Poppæa, Nero sent hither his wife Octavia, daughter of Claudius, and ordered her to be put to death, by opening her veins in a bath.

The destination of Ventotiene is at present somewhat similar to what it was in the time of the Cæsars; for it is now inhabited by a considerable number of felons condemned to banishment on this rock, where they are forced to work and improve the scanty soil, in order to form a settlement that may prevent the corsairs of Barbary from rendezvousing here.

There was so little wind, that our pilot was afraid we should not get under the shelter of Procida before night, which would have been an unpleasant circumstance, as the wind might have risen again while we were at its mercy in the open sea, and driven us down to the coasts of Sicily or Sardinia: fortunately the breeze sufficed to carry us into the channel of Procida, where we came to an anchor. The night was still and mild, and we passed great part of it in contemplating Vesuvius, which we now distinguished very plainly. An immense river of blazing lava ran down the side, supplied by streams of red hot matter vomited at intervals out of the summit of the mountain. The whole atmosphere was illumined, and a long train of light reflected from it across the gulph upon the tremulous surface  
of

of the waves, was as beautiful, if not more so, than the real fiery torrent.

The twenty-eighth was a heavy damp day, and our sailors were so dispirited with the rain, which seems to be as contrary to their constitution as it is to that of the negroes, that it required the promise of an extraordinary recompence to prevail upon them to hoist their anchor. We were the whole day in failing ten miles; the celebrated views of the gulf were hidden from our eyes by impenetrable fog and drizzling rain; Vesuvius alone sometimes reared his burning head above the clouds, and, to our great astonishment, was covered with snow to the very verge of the flaming tip of the cone. At ten at night we entered the port of Naples.

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NAPLES,



## NAPLES, and its ENVIRONS.

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### SECTION V.

**T**HE unavoidable hurry upon our arrival prevented me from visiting Vesuvius while the eruption continued. As soon as I was at liberty, I hired a hackney two-wheeled chaise, called a *Caleffo*; which is no more than a very uneasy triangular seat, gilt and bedaubed with gaudy colours, fixed upon an axle-tree, and drawn by a single horse. Some of these horses sell very dear, and go at a prodigious rate, always in a high trot. The driver stands behind, and with the whip and voice directs the horse's motion. The hirer holds the reins; but is not responsible for any mischief the carriage may do, unless he also take possession of the lash. The reins are fastened to a cavesson, without a bit, and the more the animal is pulled, the faster he goes: a hiss stops him.

One

One of these chairs conveyed me about eight miles from Naples, to the place where the lava ceased to run, after filling up a road, overturning some cottages, and consuming a wide tract of vineyards. The poplars, to which the vines were tied, were burnt or crushed beneath the weight of the cooler lumps that tumbled off on each side from the fiery mass. The surface of this black and now stagnant river is very uneven, full of points and protuberances, and broken into chasms. It answers the idea I have of a rocky mountain overturned into a valley, and shattered to pieces by an earthquake. In colour, the lava resembles slag, or the first clearings of an iron mine. The intense heat that still issued from it, though the flames were not visible by day-light, kept me at a distance. By night, fire may be seen through the crevices of the dusky crust. It had run close to a lava of seventeen years date, which is not yet sufficiently triturated by the action of air, to afford hold to the seeds of any plant, except a long hoary moss, commonly the first settler on these cinders, which are infinitely softer, and sooner crumbled to dust, than the *Sciarras* of Ætna.

After satisfying my curiosity with an attentive examination of these objects, I returned to Portici, hired a guide and mule, and rode up through the vineyards to the foot of the mountain, where vegetation terminates in a long coarse grass, the only plant that can bear the vicinity of the hot ashes and sulphureous exhalations. I ascended

the steep cone of cinders in a direct line, up to the ancles at every step in purple lukewarm ashes. The heat was not very powerful till we came within a few yards of the summit, and there smoke breaks out through many crannies. On the Portici side there is very little lava, except a few scattered stones that serve to rest upon. It is impossible to give a just idea of the fatigue of this climbing. Before that day I had mounted some very exalted points of the Alps, and clambered up the highest peak of the Pyrenees, without feeling such oppressive weariness and exhaustion of spirits and strength as I experienced on Vesuvius. Perhaps, the mephitic effluvium, which attacked my respiration, may also have had a debilitating effect upon my nerves and muscles. I should hardly have been able to proceed, had I not held by my guide, who went before with a handkerchief tied round his waist.

I confess I was a good deal disappointed on reaching the summit; for the descriptions I had read had raised in my imagination an expectation of every thing that could be glaring and striking in colours, pompous and tremendous in a scene of igneous phenomena; but the late eruption had, for a time, laid all the mountain's fury asleep, and every thing was dull and dark. The vent, by which the lava ran out, is much below the top of the mountain, and on that side the sulphureous steams are very pungent. I was on the point of returning rather frustrated of my hopes, when a curling column of smoke and flame rose  
slowly



flowly out of the gloomy abyfs, and brought up with it a thick white cloud, that had hitherto rendered the crater impervious to my fight. The wind quickly caught hold of this column, and whirled it round the immense caldron feveral times with inconceivable noife and velocity, till it forced part of the fmoke to fly off horizontally from the mountain, and dafhed the remainder back into its original cavern. During this conflict, on the oppofite fide to that where we flood, I had a peep very far into the crater. The fides feemed all lava and fcoria, with very little variety in the tints, clofed at bottom by an impenetrable fcreen of fmoke. I have feen old ruined coalpits, that afford a tolerable idea of this volcanic kettle. As foon as the fmoke was driven away, the roaring below grew loud, and frequent explofions were heard with a hollow found; and at every throe, which caufed a very confiderable commotion in the thin arch on which we flood, a fhower of red-hot ftones was fhut up; but not rifing many feet above the mountain, they did not come within the fweep of the wind, and fo fell back perpendicularly into the rumbling gulf.

I fhall not prefume to investigate minutely the origin, compofition, or operations of the mountain, as we have ample information on this fubject in the works of Sir William Hamilton. His knowledge of the volcano is fo complete, and reputation on that head fo firmly eftablifhed at Naples, that more than once the court has waited to regulate

regulate its stay at Portici, or removal from thence, till he had declared, when he thought the eruption would begin, and what direction the lava was likely to follow. Many writers of dissertations on ignivomous mountains have been led into a labyrinth of mistakes, false positions, and false consequences, by trusting solely to the relations of others, and not being at the pains of examining the phænomena with their own eyes. Whoever has not had the advantage of inspecting an active volcano, should not presume to write upon that subject, as he must unavoidably fall into error, in spite of all the learning, combinations, and sagacity the wit of man is susceptible of. Indeed, some authors, who have had Vesuvius before their eyes for forty years, have likewise fallen into strange indefensible opinions concerning its component parts, original formation, and modes of operating. Attachment to system misleads us all, and frequently causes us to see things, not as they are, but as we wish to find them. Nothing but the desire of proving Vesuvius to be a primordial mountain, and not the produce of eruptions, could have brought Padre della Torre to believe, that he saw regular, original, calcareous, and granite strata, far down in the bowels of the mountain; where, if he saw any thing, it was probably streaks of sulphureous and mineral efflorescences adhering to the coats of the funnel. Nothing but system could have so blinded Richard, as to prevent his finding a single pumice stone, or other mark of fire, in the rocks of Posilipo, where any  
trivial

trivial observer may meet with innumerable black calcined stones, though he may not be sufficiently conversant in the subject to discover, that the whole rock owes its birth to workings of volcanic fires. Without prejudices of this kind, could other authors have seen nothing in Monte Somma, and the hills of Naples, but primitive substances, unaltered since the deluge; when, in reality, every stone bespeaks a fiery origin?

To be convinced that Vesuvius has been raised from the level of the plains, or, more properly speaking, of the sea, by the sole action of fire contained in its bowels, requires, methinks, nothing but an eye accustomed to observe, and a sound judgment unbiassed by party. I own I cannot entertain a doubt of it, after having considered the insulated position, and apparent composition of the mountain, together with the soil of all the adjacent country; after having reflected upon the birth of Monte Nuovo thrown up to the perpendicular height of two hundred feet, in the short space of forty-eight hours; and upon the apparition of many islands raised out of the bosom of the waters by submarine fires, of which both ancient and modern history afford examples. The island of Ascension, and many in the Archipelago, one of which rose out of the sea in 1707, completely prove this assertion. The origin of the isle of Rhodes, as related in Pindar's seventh Olympic, seems to be of the same class. This poet calls Rhodes a native of the floods, and tells us, "that ancient tales of men relate,

I

" that



“ that when Jupiter and the gods divided the earth,  
 “ Rhodes was not visible amidst the marine waves, but  
 “ lay hid in the briny deep\*.” Apollo, being absent, was  
 left out of this partition-treaty, and, on his appearance,  
 Jupiter would have proceeded to a fresh division; but the  
 God of Day declined the offer, contenting himself with  
 dominions that did not interfere with any god’s share: “ for  
 “ (says he) I behold in the frothy sea a fruitful land rising  
 “ from the bottom.” And accordingly, as he spoke,  
 “ Lo! the island shot up out of the waters.” It is easy  
 to trace this fable to its source, the heaving up of the soil  
 at the bottom of the sea by the vehemence of fire.

Whatever may have been the origin of Vesuvius, whether  
 as a mountain it be coëval with the first-created protube-  
 rances of this globe, or whether it be an irregular produc-  
 tion of ages subsequent to the creation, this we may safely  
 affirm, that it has been a volcano beyond the reach of

\* Φανῆ δανθρώπων παλαιαὶ  
 ῥησίης ἔπω ὅτι  
 Χθόνα δαίοντο Ζεὺς τε καὶ αἰθάναιοι  
 Φανεράν ἐν πελάγει  
 Ῥόδον ἔμμεν ποντίῳ.  
 Ἀλμυροῖς δ’ ἐν βένθεσιν νᾶσον κεκρύφθαι

————— ἐπεὶ πολιάς  
 Εἶπε τὴν αὐτὸς ὄραν ἔνδον θαλάσσης  
 Ἀυξομέναν πεδόθεν  
 Πολύβοσκον, γαῖαν ἀνθρώ-  
 ποισι καὶ ἔυφρονα μάλοις

Βλάστε μὲν ἐξ ἁλὸς ὑγρᾶς  
 Νᾶσας—————

history

history or tradition. Long before it laid Herculaneum waste, it was described by authors as bearing the marks of fire on its summit. Some even say, the report of its having vomited flames went so far back into antiquity as to border upon fable. A most animated description of its ravages in 79 is left us by the younger Pliny, who was a woeful witness to all he relates. From that time, it now and then burst out, and alarmed the neighbouring country; but seemed by degrees to lose its vigour, till, in the lower ages, it scarce gave sufficient alarm to merit a place in the chronicles of the times. In 1631, it broke out again with accumulated fury, and spread such devastation around, as almost equalled the horrors of the first year of Titus. Since that epocha, it has had its periods of turbulence and repose; and of late years it has so redoubled its violence, as to emit smoke continually, and every year, at least, a torrent of lava. Whence it draws its immense supplies of combustibles, and how long its present cone will be able to bear these unremitting efforts, exceeds the power of all human calculation. I believe, however, that with all its terrors, Vesuvius, open and active, is less hostile to Naples, than it would be, if its eruptions were to cease, and its struggles were to be confined to its bowels: then undoubtedly would ensue most fatal shocks to the unstable foundation of the Terra di Lavoro.

The day being clear, I made some stay on the top, to obtain a just idea of the topography of this curious coun-

try. There cannot be a more advantageous station for examining Naples and its environs, as Vesuvius stands single, at a distance from all other mountains, and commands the plains of Nola, Capua, and Sarno, the chain of the Apennines, the promontory of Sorrento, the hills and gulf of Naples, with all its islands. I observed, that the ridge extending westward from Poggio Reale to Monte Gauro, is entirely separated by the plains from every other eminence, and constitutes a vast detached promontory, full of lakes and hollows, the craters of extinct vulcanos. On surveying those regions from this elevated pinnacle, it appeared to me, that, in times of the remotest antiquity, there may have existed an enormous flaming mountain, with its central point between Ischia and the Camaldoli, and that Solfatara, Astruni, Barbaro, &c. may be but the excrescences and *montagnuole* of one gigantic mass, which, after exhausting its force, and wearing out the surface, till it grew unable to support its own weight, may have sunk, and been overwhelmed by the waves. The gulf of Baia, and the channels of Ischia and Procida, may have been formed by this cataclysm. The size of Ætna renders such an extent no objection to my hypothesis, and shews to what a monstrous bulk a mountain can swell itself. Monte Epomeo in Ischia, and the Camaldoli, are both abruptly broken down facing each other, and both slope off very gradually different ways, till one is lost in the Campi Leborini, and the other sinks into the sea.



## SECTION VI.

**I**N Christmas time, all quarters of Naples resound with *Pastorali* or *Siciliane*, a kind of simple rural music, executed by Abruzzese or Calabrian shepherds, upon a species of bag-pipes, called in Abruzzo, Zampogna, and Ciaramelli in Calabria. The tunes vary according to the provinces: in the south, they have three different airs; the northern shepherds know only two, to which they add what variations the boldness of their own genius inspires. The boys learn of their fathers to play upon this instrument as the means of subsistence\*. At other seasons, it is rare to hear any agreeable sounds in the streets of Naples, though it is the nursery of musical professors: a school, where the greatest masters have imbibed their principles, and acquired that knowledge of composition, which has enchanted the ears of all Europe. There is no such thing as a national music, unless we give that name to a monotonous drawling seguidilla, that serves the nurses† as a lullaby to put their children to rest, and

\* The waits still kept in the pay of some corporations in England, are counterparts of these shepherds.

† To second its narcotic influence, they administer to them copious doses of Venice treacle, of which such quantities are used, as render it a material article of importation. The Neapolitans have tears at command, and are very easily moved to shed them. Neither blows nor caresses can stop their children when once they begin to cry: they must roar till they are tired.

seems borrowed from the Spaniards, who, I believe, learnt it of the Moors. I never resided in any Italian town where there was a less musical turn in the populace: few songs, guittars, vielles, or organs, enliven the evenings, as in the northern states of Italy, unless they be sent for to entertain the parties that in summer sup on the shore of Posilipo\*.

They do not even dance to music, but perform the Tarantella to the beating of a kind of tambourine, which was in use among their ancestors, as appears by the pictures of Herculaneum. The Tarantella is a low dance, consisting of turns on the heel, much footing and snapping of the fingers†. It seems the delight of their soul, and a constant holiday diversion of the young women, who are, in general, far from handsome, although they have fine eyes and striking features. Their hands and feet are clumsy, their shapes neglected, their necks flabby, and their skins discoloured by living so much in the sun without bonnets. Amongst them we may find almost every mode of hair-dressing seen on the Greek and Roman coins‡.

\* I have been told, that before the famine and calamities of 1764, the populace of Naples was more cheerful and musically inclined than at present.

† Persons of all ranks here dance very low, but mark the time as perfectly with their steps, as other nations do by springing from the ground.

‡ The coiffure of the younger Faustina, with the coil of plaited hair upon the crown of the head, occurs frequently in the old town: that with the coil lower down, which may more properly be stiled Lucilla's head-dress, is common among the younger part of the sex in the suburbs of Chiaia, and Plotina's among the women more advanced in years. I do not recollect to have seen any with the roll of tresses so high up as it appears on the head of Faustina the elder.

The women are always fighting and scolding, but never resist their husband's authority, when he comes to separate the combatants, and carry home his dishevelled spouse, who seems to stand as much in awe of her consort, as the Russian wives do of theirs, and suffers herself to be beaten by him with as little murmuring. I was shewn a woman here, who, during the life of her first husband, was a pattern of modesty and evenness of temper to the whole parish; but upon contracting a second marriage, surprized and scandalized the neighbourhood with her perpetual riots and obstreperousness. On being reprimanded for her behaviour by the curate, she very frankly acknowledged that her former husband understood the management of a wife, and used to check her intemperate bursts of passion by timely correction; but that her present helpmate was too mild, to apply the proper chastisement which every wife requires more or less. Men seldom interfere in feminine brawls; and if they do, generally content themselves with abusing, threatening, or shaking a cudgel or pitchfork at their antagonist, till the crowd comes in to part them. Sometimes a man is stabbed, but this is a rare event among the fishermen, the class of inhabitants I have had most constantly under my eye. Manners vary with the districts; in some they engage with bludgeons, and those are the true lazaroni of Massaniello; in others the attack is made with knives and other deadly weapons; but the Neapolitans are by no means so bloody and revengeful a people as they are repre-



mented by many travellers. It requires more than a slight provocation to lead them to extremities. During the prodigious hurry and confusion of the races in carnival, not the least tumult or quarrel was heard of; and even in the cruel famine of 1764, the only act of violence committed by a hungry populace, increased to double its number by the concourse of peasants from the provinces, where all crops had failed, was to break open and pillage a single baker's shop. Can as much be said for the temper of the mobs at London and Edinburgh? Drunkenness is not a common vice at Naples, and therefore quarrels, its usual consequences, are rare; besides, the Neapolitan rabble allow each other a great latitude of abuse and scolding before they are wound up to a fighting pitch. It is also uncommon to see any thing in public like gallantry among the people; no soldiers are met leading their doxies, or girls going about in quest of lovers; all which are, in other countries, sources of riot and bloodshed. At Naples there is nothing but a mere nominal police; yet burglaries are unknown, riots still more so, and the number of assassinations inconsiderable: it bears no proportion to that of the murders committed in the distant provinces, where, I am credibly informed, no less than four thousand persons are killed annually. Most of these crimes are perpetrated with guns in the mountainous countries, where a great ferocity of character, and wildness of manners prevail, and where the inhabitants are more wandering, and less exposed to the pursuits of the law, which is  
indeed

indeed far from formidable in any part of the realm. It would require a prudent, inflexible, and long exertion of impartial criminal justice, to reduce to order the fierce untractable assassin of the mountainous regions of Calabria, who being driven by the oppression of the barons and officers of the revenue to penury and despair, sets little value upon his life, and braves danger to the last drop of his blood. The execution, however cruel, of a few banditti, would strike but little terror into their associates, and produce no effect but that of ridding society of one or two bad members ; nor will any measures of police ever prove effectual, unless government adopt and pursue, with steadiness, a system that may lessen the grievances of the poor, restrain the despotism of the petty tyrants, and, by providing the peasant with more means of supporting himself and family by honest labour, guard him against the temptation of taking up a lawless line of life. The case is different in the soft and fertile plains of the happy Campagna ; there the well-timed prompt execution of a criminal, without allowing him any unnecessary respite to prepare for death, and without suffering priests to assemble round him, to excite the devotion, compassion, and almost admiration of the crowd, would operate with great energy on the dastardly minds of the docile race that inhabits this charming climate ; the terror of active justice would prove a powerful check to murder, and violent outrages.

K

At

At present, the forms of criminal jurisprudence are here so ill ordained, so multiplied and so complex, that if the king were to insist upon a villain, who was taken in the fact, being tried, and if found guilty, hanged before the end of three days, the dispatch would almost kill the judges with fatigue; for the trial and procedures would employ them eighteen hours out of each twenty-four: First, the accusation must be laid according to rule, and witnesses examined; next the council for the prisoner pleads a couple of hours; then the advocate for the *fisco* replies during one hour, and after him the advocate of the poor makes a rejoinder, which he has a right to spin out for two hours: this done, every one of the four judges harangues; then all the notifications are made, examinations canvassed, proofs debated, and a thousand trifling formalities observed, which occasion such shameful, insurmountable delays, as eternize a criminal process. It happened lately, that upon the final determination of the trial, and condemnation of a malefactor, a message was sent to the jailor to bring the culprit into court in order to receive sentence; when, behold! the turnkey appeared, and made affidavit that the prisoner had died of a long fit of sickness the Christmas twelvemonth before. As the salary of a judge in Naples is only fifty ducats a month (£ 9 : 7 : 6), he cannot afford to be honest or expeditious: but the case is still worse in the provinces, where the judges have but twenty-five ducats, and with that must keep a coach and proper household establishment. The scri-

8

vani,



vani, or commissaries, who have the department of warrants, arrests, and police, are allowed no pay, though they must keep thirty bailiffs a-piece under them; so that they are naturally very active in taking up an offender, where there is a probability of extorting any money out of him: when once in durance, the prisoner ceases to be an object of consideration to them, and therefore they take no pains to forward his trial, or bring him to justice: there are at this day above twelve thousand criminals rotting in the different prisons of the kingdom, whose maintenance costs the state above two hundred thousand ducats a year (thirty-seven thousand five hundred pounds).

The fishermen of Santa Lucia are the handsomest men in Naples; they have the true old Grecian features, and such well-proportioned limbs, that they might serve for models in any academy of design: they are the most substantial and best lodged portion of the Neapolitan populace. It is true, as most writers assert, that the houseroom of this metropolis is very inadequate to the population, which, according to authentic accounts, amounted, at the close of the year 1776, to three hundred and fifty thousand sixty-one souls; and that numbers of these are destitute of house and property. But it is not equally a fact, as they assert, that winter and summer these houseless inhabitants pass their lives in the open air, and sleep in all weathers in the streets. In summer it is very pleasant so to do, but in winter not even a dog could bear the inclemency of the weather, not so much on account of

cold, as of wet. When the rainy season sets in, it commonly lasts several successive weeks, falling, not in such showers as we are acquainted with in England, where we have rain more or less every month in the year, but by pailfuls, an absolute water-spout, that carries all before it, and almost drowns the unfortunate passenger who is caught out of doors by the storm. The quantity of rain at Naples is much more considerable than that which falls on the same space of ground in England. Whole months of drought are compensated by the deluge of a day : and besides, the south winds are frequently so boisterous in winter, as to burst open the bolts of both doors and windows. At that rainy time of the year, few are so wretched and helpless as to lie in the street, but most of the vagrants resort to the caves under Capodi Monte, where they sleep in crowds like sheep in a pinfold. As they are thus provided with a dwelling, for which no rent is exacted, they also procure food without the trouble of cooking or keeping house : the markets and principal streets are lined with sellers of macaroni, fried and boiled fish, puddings, cakes, and vegetables of all sorts ; where, for a very small sum, which he may earn by a little labour, running of errands, or picking of pockets, the lazaro finds a ready meal at all hours : the flaggon hanging out at every corner invites him to quench his thirst with wine ; or if he prefers water, as most of them do, there are stalls in all the thoroughfares, where lemonade and iced water are sold. The passion for iced water is so great and so  
general

general at Naples, that none but mere beggars will drink it in its natural state ; and, I believe, a scarcity of bread would not be more severely felt than a failure of snow. It is brought in boats every morning from the mountains behind Castellamare, and is farmed out at a great rent : the Jesuits, who possessed a large capital, as well as the true spirit of enterprise, had purchased the exclusive privilege of supplying the city with it.

Very little suffices to clothe the lazaro, except on holidays ; and then he is indeed tawdrily decked out, with laced jacket and flame-coloured stockings : his buckles are of enormous magnitude, and seem to be the prototype of those with which our present men of mode load their insteps. The women are also very splendid on those days of shew ; but their hair is then bound up in tiffue caps and scarlet nets, a fashion much less becoming than their every day simple method. Citizens and lawyers are plain enough in their apparel, but the female part of their family vies with the first court ladies in expensive dress, and all the vanities of modish fopperies. Luxury has of late advanced with gigantic strides in Naples. Forty years ago, the Neapolitan ladies wore nets and ribbons on their heads, as the Spanish women do to this day, and not twenty of them were possessed of a cap : but hair plainly dressed is a mode now confined to the lowest order of inhabitants, and all distinction of dress between the wife of a nobleman and that of a citizen is entirely laid aside. Expence and extravagance  
are



are here in the extreme. The great families are oppressed with a load of debt; the working part of the community always spend the price of their labour before they receive it; and the citizen is reduced to great parsimony, and almost penury, in his housekeeping, in order to answer these demands of external show: short commons at home whet his appetite when invited out to dinner; and it is scarce credible what quantities of victuals he will devour. The nobility in general are well served, and live comfortably, but it is not their custom to admit strangers to their table; the number of poor dependants who dine with them, and cannot properly be introduced into company, prevents the great families from inviting foreigners: another reason may be, their sleeping after dinner in so regular a manner as to undress and go to bed: no ladies or gentlemen finish their toilet till the afternoon, on which account they dine at twelve or one o'clock. The great officers of state, and ministers, live in a different manner, and keep sumptuous tables, to which strangers and others have frequent invitations.

The establishment of a Neapolitan grandee's household is upon a very expensive plan; the number of servants, carriages, and horses, would suffice for a sovereign prince; and the wardrobe of their wives is formed upon the same magnificent scale; yet it is a fixed rule, that all ladies whatever, be the circumstance of their husbands affluent or circumscribed, have an hundred ducats a month, and no more, allowed them for pin-money. At the birth of every child,  
the

the husband makes his wife a present of an hundred ounces, and some valuable trinkets, according to his fortune. Marriage portions are not very great in general; it does not cost a nobleman more to marry a daughter than it does to make her a nun; for a thousand pounds will not defray the expence of the ceremonies at her reception and profession: she must have a pension settled upon her, and reserves, besides, a power over her inheritance, in case she shall arrive at any dignity in the convent, and wish to enrich it with buildings, plate, or vestments.

Servants and artificers of the city give from fifty to an hundred ducats with their daughters; peasants and country workmen go as far as three hundred. Females at and near Naples are esteemed helpless and indolent, and therefore have always twice or thrice as much fortune as their brothers, who have greater resources in their strength and activity. A girl would scarce get a husband, if her lover did not expect to be reimbursed by her portion the sum he had paid away with his own sisters. In the plains, it is customary for a peasant, on the birth of a daughter, to plant a row of poplar trees, which are cut down and sold at the end of seventeen years, to make up a fortune for her. The proverbial benediction of *Figlij maschi*, Male children, which a Neapolitan gives a woman when she sneezes, is founded on the great facility with which the common people provide for their sons: as soon as they can run about they are able to earn their bread, while their sisters remain  
idle

idle at home, or beg till they are old enough to attract the notice of the men.

## S E C T I O N VII.

**T**HIS kingdom consists of twelve provinces, of which the superficies measures fourteen millions five hundred and eight thousand nine hundred and seventy-three moggie. In two thousand and sixty-seven cities, towns, villages, or hamlets, it contains about four millions five hundred thousand inhabitants, which is not more than half the population that so fertile a country might support. A duty is levied upon landed property, partly by a land tax, and partly by impositions on consumption, taxes for roads, bridges, repairs, and other public exigencies, in the perception of which infinite abuses are committed \*.

Upon a calculation of ten years, the average quantity of wheat sown in the kingdom amounts to little more than two million five hundred thousand tomoli; a tomolo is a sufficient quantity for a moggia. Six hundred and twenty-

\* In some parts of the kingdom an assessment is made by the king's officers, and those parts are governed by gabella. Others are upon a freer footing, and regulated by a catasto; this is a register kept in each district, or università, wherein are marked the incomes of all the inhabitants, who are taxed in proportion to the number of ounces they possess, towards completing the sum demanded of the district by the king. This ounce contains three carlini. A fuoco implies a family, or five persons.



five thousand moggie are sown with barley and lent grain, and two hundred and fifty thousand with Indian corn and pulse; but it is supposed by good judges, that one million seven hundred and sixty four thousand; five hundred and eighteen moggie more might be sown with wheat, five hundred and eighty-four thousand and eighty-one moggie with barley, oats, and other lanten corn, and with pulse and Indian corn, one hundred and twelve thousand, seven hundred and twenty-four moggie, or thereabouts.

The usual produce of wheat, on an average, of the last ten years, comes to about twenty-two millions tomoli, reckoning it about eight tomoli per moggia per annum between the more and less fertile lands.

	Tomoli.
For seed there go - - -	2,500,000
For the consumption of the inhabitants, in number 4,487,628, at five tomoli a head, -	22,438,140
	<hr/>
	24,938,140

But four tomoli a head being a juster calculation, because in several provinces the common people live upon bread made of Turkey wheat, barley, chestnuts, &c. the necessary consumption in wheat ought to be stated only at

- - -	17,950,512
Add for seed - - -	2,500,000
	<hr/>
	20,450,512

Consequently there remain for exportation, one year with another, about one million and a half of tomoli.

In some grounds, where beans and Indian corn have been gathered, it is usual to sow wheat the same year, and those lands are called *Maggifi*. It is thought that four millions of *Moggi* are fit for the reception of wheat, but two thirds of them are not sown, through the bad œconomy of government, impositions, vexations, &c. In the territory of *Foggia*, part of *Puglia*, there is reckoned to be an extent of one hundred and fifty thousand versure proper for corn; each versura will take three and a half tomoli of wheat to sow, or four and a half tomoli of barley. However, till the year 1767, no more was ever sown than fifty-three thousand versure, not even in 1764, at the time of the famine, though, in order to secure an ample supply for the next year, the tenants threw upon the lands more feed-corn than usual, and exerted themselves to the utmost of their abilities. Abuses in administration, and rapacity in the tax-gatherers, defeat all schemes of improvement in husbandry. In 1767, one hundred and eleven thousand versure were sown in the territory of *Foggia*. If the three million moggie of land fit for the plough, more than the quantity actually in tillage, were sown with corn, the kingdom might probably produce thirty-two millions tomoli of wheat, instead of twenty-two millions; and the exportation of grain might then be always kept open without danger, and to the great advantage of the cultivators.

It

It is calculated that the culture of corn employs ten persons, that of the vine at least twenty.

The chief exportation of corn is made from the provinces of Capitanata, Bari, Otranto, Abruzzo, Molise, Calabria, and Basilicata: they supply the internal consumption of the kingdom and foreign markets. The product of the Terra di Lavoro, and Salerno, is reserved for the use of the capital.

The exports of the kingdom of Naples are, wheat, barley, legumes, Indian corn; hemp, line, cummin, fennel, and anniseeds; wool, oil, wine, cheese, fish, salt flesh, honey, wax, fresh and dry fruit, manna, saffron, liquorice, feccia bruciata, gums, locust beans, capers, lupins, *paste*, macaroni of various sorts, salt, potash, brimstone, nitre, argal, pitch, tar, sumach, skins, cattle, oranges, lemons, brandy, vinegar, metals, minerals, marble, silk, hemp, flax, cottons, and divers sorts of manufactures. All these products might be sent out in very great quantities, if proper encouragement were given; and both horses and cattle might become valuable articles of exportation, if the breed were attended to.

The provinces most abundant in oil are, Bari, Otranto, Calabria, and Abruzzo. The product, upon ten years average, has been esteemed at six hundred thousand salme. The consumption of the whole kingdom, including the capital, rarely exceeds three hundred thousand salme, yet the exportation of late years has seldom amounted to forty thou-



fand falme, except in the year 1767, when it was greater, on account of the general failure of olives throughout Spain.

The city of Naples consumes annually thirty-seven thousand five hundred falme of clear oils, and about three thousand of dirty oils.

The duties upon a falm of oil exported from Gallipoli or Taranto are,

	Duc.	Gr.
For the treasury,	1	0
Farm of oil and soap, called Arrendamento,	3	30
Customhouses of Puglia, for extraction,	0	75
The customhouse's valuation of said oil in the ports should be D. 12 per falm, on which should be paid at the rate of 67 G. per ounce of D. 6, which comes to		
	1	34
	<hr/>	
	D. 6	39

But this varies, and is now got up to near D. 8 per falm. Oil imported into Naples bears a Duty of D. 1 32½ per falm.

The high excise and farm upon brandies prevents the distillation of that commodity from the immense quantity of wines that are produced. Most of these wines would bear long sea voyages, if the proprietors could afford the expence of good brandy to mix with them. From the high duties a small exportation only takes place of coarse wines for Holland, and of the Greek wine of Vesuvius for other places.

The produce of filk in the kingdom is computed at about eight hundred thousand pounds weight annually, of which half is supposed to be worked at home, and the other half exported raw. Double the quantity might be fold unwrought, and double might be manufactured, were it not prevented by the high duties on exportation, and on importation into the capital, together with the tyranny and exactions of the excise officers of the provinces.

The exportation of thrown filk, upon an average of many years, amounts to one hundred and forty-eight thousand two hundred and seventeen pounds.

The exportation of raw filk from the Calabrias, through the custom-house, is about fifty-three thousand pounds; but perhaps double that quantity is smuggled to Leghorn and other parts.

Among the many vexations and impositions on raw filk produced in the kingdom, may be reckoned the unjust proceedings of the deputies of the royal farms, and administrators of the excise, who, as soon as the filk is drawn off by the poor people from the pods, out of the caldron, weigh it, and note down the weight in a book. When the filk is fold, they oblige the vender to pay the duty upon the said weight, though the filk was heavy with water, on a cruel supposition that they have smuggled the difference; so that the poor creatures actually pay duty for a portion of water.

A gabel of a grain a pound is even laid upon the refuse pods, which formerly were untaxed. The duties upon  
filk

filk in Calabria come to forty-two and a half grains per pound, including seven grains per pound for a duty called di Bisignano. That of the Terra di Lavoro, Basilicata, Salerno, and Abruzzo, is forty-one grains per pound: but then there is another duty of twelve grains and seven tenths per pound on the exportation of raw filk less ten per cent. for package, and about ten grains for thrown filk less twenty per cent. for package, and five per cent. for wet.

No small quantity of cotton is gathered in the Terra di Bari, and the districts of the cities of Turfì and Gravina; but the best is in the province of Lecce. Venice takes off a good deal annually, as also of the wool.

Almonds abound in the territories of Bari, Lecce, and the Abruzzi; but the best come from Bari, where they are exported to Venice and Trieste. A duty of three ducats ninety four grains per canto ruins this trade.

In Calabria there are natural mountains of salt, stronger and more active than sea salt; but the mines are shut up, not to hurt the revenue, which reaps great benefit by the high duties upon that article. At Naples the gabel is almost five times more than the first cost of the commodity in Sicily.

All manufactures sent from the capital into the provinces, and all that are exported out of the kingdom (though the first species with which they were fabricated had already paid the customhouse duties) are nevertheless liable to a charge of sixteen to twenty per cent. called Miglioria. Nothing is excepted but sweetmeats and chocolate.

The



The duties levied upon the Miglioria or Minutillo, amount annually to seventy-four thousand nine hundred and nine ducats, of which fourteen thousand belong to the city of Naples, upon the imposition of twenty-three grains per ounce, and the rest goes into the customhouse, paid upon manufactures.

Consumption of corn in the city of Naples.

	Tomoli.
In bread for the public, - - -	400,000
Maccaroni, - - -	160,000
Taralli, or little biscuits, - - -	50,000
Meal at the great market, - - -	300,000
Meal at twelve other stalls in the city, - - -	300,000
Fine flour, 95,000 cantara, - - -	300,000
For the land and sea troops, - - -	120,000
Charity schools and convents, - - -	1,200,000

Per annum, 2,830,000

Horned cattle, - - -	25,000
Sorrento calves, - - -	3,000
Hogs, between the market and other places, - - -	45,000

Eggs from the neighbourhood, besides what are produced in the city, 60,000 per diem.

Oil, stars of ten and one third rotoli each, - 600,000

There is in the kingdom of Naples a fund of more than fifty millions of ducats belonging to the exchequer, duties, and other public effects. It ought be converted into a public

public bank, bearing proper interest ; but, instead thereof, the produce is in a great measure absorbed by the salaries and peculation of the subaltern financiers, to the great disadvantage of the public.

According to the best authenticated accounts, the current coin of the kingdom of Naples, in gold, silver, and brass, is between eight and nine millions of ducats, which is not sufficient for the circulation of a very extensive commerce : for although the notes of seven public banks, established in the city of Naples, circulate even down to the value of the smallest sums, yet the equivalent is paid into these banks by the proprietors, or by creditors, in money, as into bankers hands in London, without any allowance of interest : and therefore this mode of payment only serves for the readier dispatch of business, and saving of some trouble, but does not increase the circulation ; nor is there any paper issued out that bears a premium.

All bills of exchange, court transactions, civil, military, ecclesiastical and mercantile payments, are made either by bank-bills, called *fedi di credito*, or by drafts on the said banks, explaining the causes at length of said payments, for which reason no receipts are taken. The person who is in possession of a bank-bill or draft, is in rigour obliged to pass it as his own in the space of twenty-four hours ; otherwise should the bank fail, the holder of the bank-bill has no redress against the person who paid it him. In this century there has been an instance of the failure of a bank, viz.  
that

that of L'Annunziata. There is a law still existing, though not enforced, which declares, that no payment above six ducats shall be valid, unless made by one of the banks. These banks are at present seven in number, viz. S. Giacomo, S. Eligio, S. Salvatore, Poveri, Pieta, Spirito Santo, and Popolo. They serve as public depositories of money; more or less they all take in pawns to an immense value, at stated interests, and lend money also upon proper security of lands, houses, &c.

There is a company of assurance, with a *jus privativum*, which is contrary to the interest of commerce. The profits of this association, in the first ten years after its institution, were upwards of ten per cent. and at the end of the next five years, in 1766, rose to twenty per cent. It would therefore be an advantage for the state, if the number of insurance-offices were increased, as the gains on the whole, though divided, would increase also. The risk begins from the moment the goods are put on board, and continues till the arrival of the ship, and her total discharge of the goods, which is a good custom for the insured.

#### MERCHANDISE imported into NAPLES.

From England—Woollen goods of all sorts, silk and worsted stockings, hats, tanned hides, lead, tin, pepper, hardware, linens, handkerchiefs, fans, canes, gums, dying-woods, drugs, watches, clocks, mathematical instruments,

M

household



household furniture, salt cod, pilchards, herrings, coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, and occasionally calicoes and East India goods.

Holland—Cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, pepper, medicinal drugs from the East and West Indies, fine cloths, particularly the black, called Segovia, linen for shirts and other uses, muslins, chintz, calicoes, several sorts of cocoa, whalebone, tobacco, silk stuffs and velvet.

France—An immense quantity of sugar, indigo, coffee, dying-woods, verdigrease, Levant drugs, cocoa, hardware, silk stuffs, gold and silver, says of Le Mans, du roy, cloths of Elbeuf, and all sorts of women's apparel.

Spain—Sugar, cochineal, dying-woods, cocoa, hides salted and in the hair, medicinal American drugs, Jesuits bark, falsapariglia, jalap, balsam of Peru, hippecacuciana, cloths of divers sorts, wine, tobacco, snuff of Seville and Havana, lead, gun-barrels, honey, &c.

Portugal—Brazil sugars, tobacco, cocoa of Maringan, drugs, hides, &c.

Venice—Books, cordavans, looking-glasses, chrystals and glasses of all sorts, lustres, coach and window glasses, Padua cloths, called Venetian says, for the consumption of the provinces, fine Verona cloths, equal to English scarlet, stockings, caps made of wool, fine hats used in the provinces, wax candles, white loaf sugar, fine linen, medicinal and Levant drugs, all sorts of paints, sublimate, cinnabar, quicksilver, turpentine, dragon's blood, copper, iron of  
divers

divers sorts of the manufactures of Germany and Brescia, excellent paper, much used in the provinces.

Genoa—American goods from the Spanish main and the Portuguese East Indies, velvets, iron in great quantity, nails, ordinary hats, wax from Tunis and the African coast.

Leghorn—All sorts of goods, at second hand, from the Levant, Barbary wools, linens of Egypt, wax, and many silk manufactures.

Peterburg—Hides, wax, iron, furs, &c.

Sardinia—An immense quantity of tunny fish, and white cheese.

Germany—Silesia linens of all sorts, white and painted, iron of divers manufactures, vitriol of Hungary, chrystals of Bohemia, large glasses for coaches and windows, hats and goods of the new Vienna fabrick, turpentine, quicksilver, hardware, manufactures of Osnaburg and Nuremberg, copper, tin plates, boards, cloth, &c.

The duties in general upon goods imported into the city of Naples amount to about twenty-five per cent. upon the customhouse estimation, paying so much per ounce ad valorem; which ounce is regulated at six ducats value. Sugars and wax, by the new impositions, pay forty or fifty per cent. upon the market price. The duty upon sugar produces about eighty thousand ducats annually.

## SECTION VIII.

*March* } **H**AVING received an invitation to be present at  
*26th.* } the opening of some lately discovered rooms  
 at Stabia, I went thither with a party. On our way we  
 visited Herculaneum and Pompeii \*. We then traversed the  
 rich plain that lies between Vesuvius and the Sorrentine  
 branch of the Apennines, and came by a gentle ascent to  
 the excavations. Stabia was a long string of country houses,  
 rather than a town; for it had been destroyed by Sylla,  
 and before the reign of Titus, all its rebuilt edifices were  
 overturned by an earthquake. In the catastrophe of seventy-  
 nine, the wind blowing furiously from the north, brought  
 the ashes of Vesuvius upon it; all the country was covered  
 with cinders and rapilli, or small pumice-stones, many  
 yards deep. Towns, houses, and trees, were buried, and  
 their situations remained marked in the plain by hillocks  
 like barrows. Stabia, though six miles from the mountain,  
 was overwhelmed and lost, till it was casually discovered  
 about twenty-eight years ago. The earthquake had so da-  
 maged the buildings, that none of them can be preserved,  
 and therefore as soon as every thing curious is taken out,

\* I shall reserve for the second volume what I have to say concern-  
 ing them.



the pits are filled up again. The ashes penetrated into all parts, and consumed every thing that was combustible.

On our arrival, the workmen began to break into the subterraneous rooms, and, as the soil is all a crumbling cinder, very little labour was requisite to clear them. When opened, the apartments presented us with the shattered walls, daubed rather than painted with gaudy colours in compartments, and some birds and animals in the cornices, but in a coarse style, as indeed are all the paintings of Stabia. In a corner, we found the brass hinges and lock of a trunk; near them, part of the contents, viz. ivory flutes in pieces, some coins, brass rings, scales, steel-yards, and a very elegant silver statue of Bacchus, about two inches high, represented with a crown of vine leaves, buskins, and the horn of plenty.

The brow of this hill affords a rich and varied prospect towards Vesuvius and the gulf.

The company returned to Naples; but I remained all night at Torre della Nunziata, a large village belonging to the princes of Valle and Dentici, and a hospital. It was of little note while the high road from Naples passed between Vesuvius and Nola, the communication by land along the shore being impeded by repeated eruptions. All that tract was for many ages one dark forest, successively consumed by fiery torrents, and springing up again upon the old cooled lavas. As soon as a road was opened over Herculaneum, the Torre became populous. A manufacture of  
fire-arms

fire-arms was established here by the present King of Spain, who attempted to introduce several others into the kingdom; but every branch that required nicety, patience, and fine touches, failed: that of arms succeeded wonderfully; and, in three years, the German artificers, he had sent for to instruct his subjects, returned to their own country: for their pupils were become as skilful as themselves.

Early next morning, I hired a six-oared barge, and rowed along the coast. We passed before the island of Revigliano, a fine object, that has been introduced into many pictures. My first station was Castelmare di Stabia, a long town lying at the bottom of the bay, sheltered to the south by high mountains, that come so near the water edge as to leave only a very narrow slip for the buildings, many of which are boldly and beautifully placed on the lower points of the hills. The King has a charming villa above the city, formerly a farm of the Jesuits. The port is small and entirely artificial, more frequented by Latin sail-barks than ships. This place rose by the ruin of the inland towns. In 1654, the French, under the Duke of Guise, took it by storm, and meant to push their conquests from hence into the heart of the kingdom. Their hopes were soon blasted by a defeat on the banks of the Sarno, which obliged them to reembark, and abandon even Castelmare, but not before they had stripped it of every thing valuable. I continued my course westward under a  
bold

## COAST OF SORRENTO.

85

bold shore : new beauties of landscape opened upon me at the doubling of every promontory. The first change of scene was to an uninhabited forest, where white cliffs rise perpendicular out of the deep blue waters : behind them, lofty mountains overgrown with wood. These rocks are calcarious, and furnish Naples with lime. The stones are burnt in the creeks, and the fire supplied with faggots cut in the hills, and flung down on ropes. Along the shore are many strong sulphureous springs.

Vico was my next stage : a little city, in a delightful position, on the brow of a hill, backed by an amphitheatre of mountains. The strata of these eminences incline contrary ways to one central point, as if there had originally existed a similar mass in the centre, torn asunder and swallowed up by one of those shocks, which must have often overturned this unstable country. Charles the Second and Joan the First raised Vico out of obscurity, on account of the charms they found in its situation.

On doubling the next projecting rocks, we entered the spacious bay of Sorrento, three miles wide. A semicircular chain of woody mountains incloses a rich and beautiful plain, rather sloping towards the sea, full of white buildings peeping out of the groves. This half-moon terminates in a straight line to the sea, by a bold coast of black perpendicular rocks. It probably formed a portion of a circle, half of which broke off and sunk into the waves. This I believe to have been the case, and that the



whole was once the crater of a volcano. All the soil of the plain is cineritious, and its rocks a strong blue lava, except near the east end, where they are of a softer piperino kind. The encircling mountains are composed of regular calcareous layers, that do not join or intermix in the least with the others, but are broken off abruptly all round, as if a place had been scooped out for the reception of the heterogeneous mass, rising suddenly out of the bosom of the earth or waters. Many of these limestone rocks are twisted, as it were, into ropes, exactly in the same manner as some Vesuvian lavas: they have besides so many peculiarities, that correspond with those of the productions of burning mountains, that were it not directly repugnant to the common systems of philosophy, which decide all calcareous substances to be a sediment of the ocean, I should be tempted to believe, that fire had a greater share in the formation of these rocks than is generally allowed. The materials of the lower grounds are beyond doubt volcanic; however, I am confident that, as yet, we are but imperfectly acquainted with the powers of fire, and the metamorphoses it is capable of producing. As we have discovered, that the fumes of sulphur and vitriol can change hard black lava into soft white clay, perhaps we may find out, that some other operation of natural chymistry can convert substances into limestone.

*Sulphur & Vitriol  
Black Lava  
White Clay*

I landed at Sorrento, a city placed on the very brink of the steep rocks that overhang the bay, in a most enchant-  
ing

ing situation. It contains fifteen thousand inhabitants, half the population of the whole plain. The streets are narrow; but this is no inconvenience in a warm climate, where carriages are not used, nor any communication with the metropolis practicable by land. Of all the places in the kingdom, this is blest with the most delightful climate. It was renowned for it in ancient times: Silius Italicus extols its soft and wholesome zephyrs\*. At present, it enjoys shady groves, excellent water, fruit, fish, milk, butter, the finest veal in the world, good wine, and almost every necessary of life at an easy rate. Mountains screen it from the hot autumnal blasts. The temper of the inhabitants is said to resemble the climate in mildness. A few inscriptions and reservoirs of water are all the remnants of antiquity it can shew. It derives its name from the residence or worship of the Syrens†. In this bay, the Prince of Salerno, son to Charles the First, was, in 1283, taken prisoner by Lauria, the admiral of Peter of Aragon: a naval victory that insured the possession of Sicily to the conquerors. Here Torquatus Tasso drew his first breath in 1544: a bard undoubtedly intitled to rank in the foremost line of modern poets, notwithstanding the sarcasm of Boileau‡, who, from his ignorance of the Italian

\* Zephyro Surrentum molle salubri.

† Surehetum.

‡ Le clinquant du Tasse à tout l'or de Virgile.  
Prefers Tasso's tinsel to Virgil's gold.

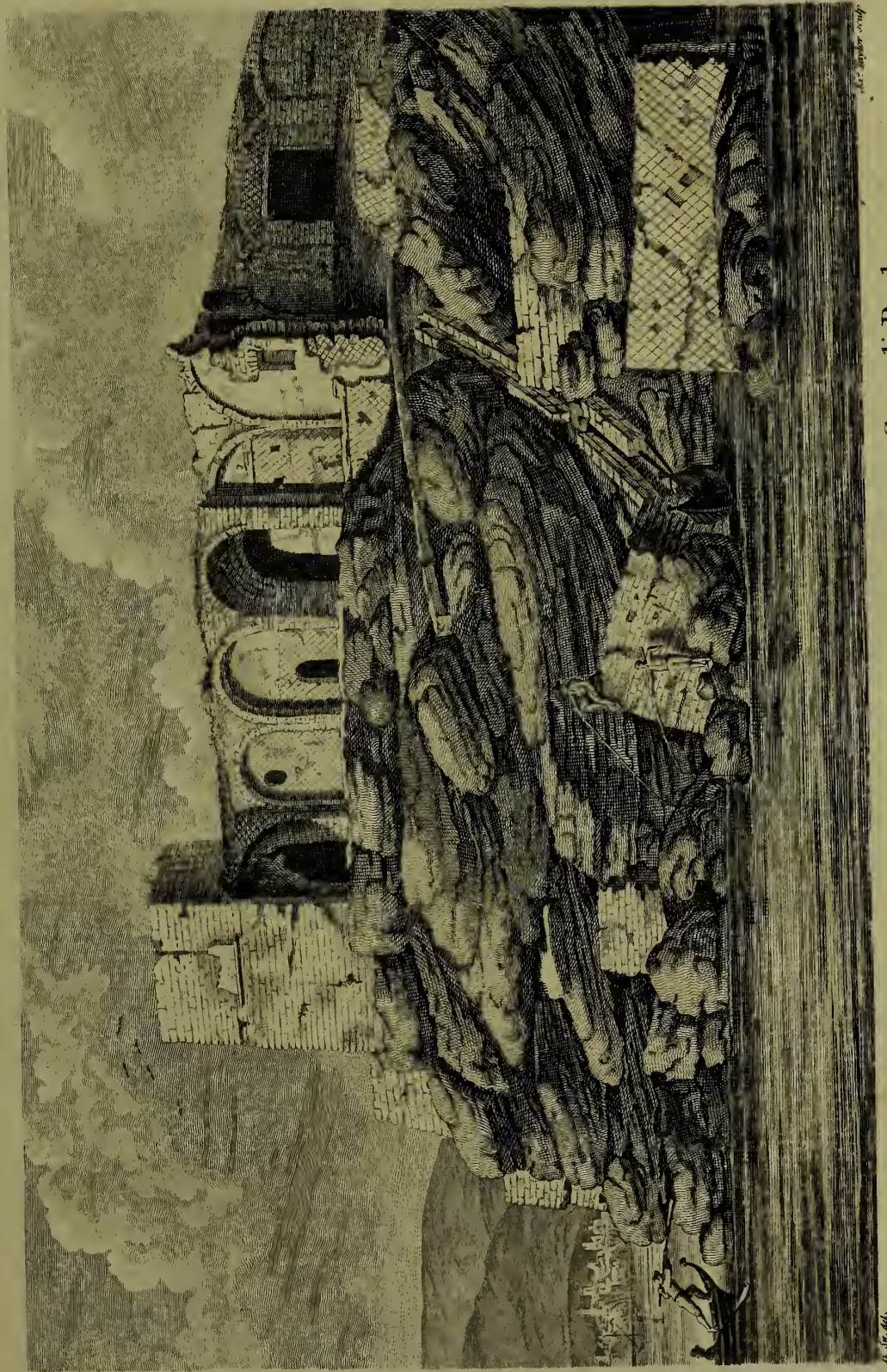


language, and the coldness of his heart, was a very improper judge of the flights of genius. In 1558, the Turks sacked this city, and carried off twelve thousand captives; but, preferring money to such a quantity of slaves, they sent to Naples to ask a ransom. Distrust, consternation, or insensibility, caused their offer to be rejected, and the infidels sailed away with their prisoners. Soon after, by an act of generosity scarce to be paralleled in any history, the remaining Sorrentines sold their lands and goods, and redeemed their fellow-citizens. Had such an effort been made by Greeks or Romans, it would have been a common-place example for school-boys, and every dissertator, ancient and modern, would have enlarged with enthusiasm on this trait of heroism; but at Sorrento it is scarce remembered, and, I believe, it is entirely forgotten in the rest of the kingdom.

On the twenty-eighth, I continued my coasting voyage to Capo di Terra, or Puolo, the point that divides the bay of Sorrento from that of Massa\*. Here are the ruins of a villa mentioned in Statius's *Sylvæ*: it belonged to Pollius Fælix, whose name is still preserved in the modern appellation. I admired the exactness with which the poet has described the spot; for however altered and disfigured the minuter features may be, the great outlines of the

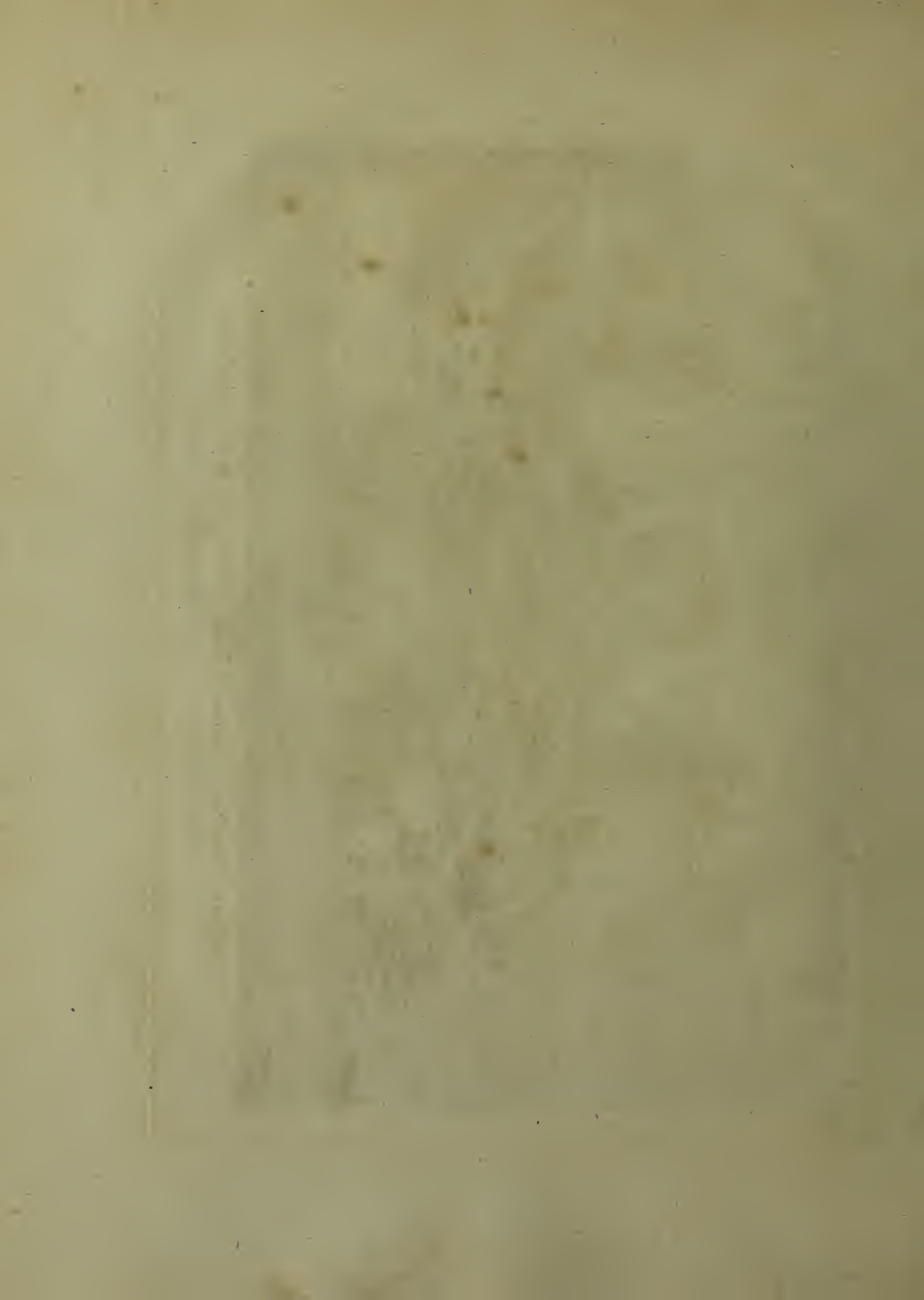
\* Est inter notos Syrenum nomine muros,  
Saxaque Tyrrhenæ templis ornata Minervæ.





Ruins of the Surrentinum, or Villa of POLLIUS at Capo di Puolo.

*Alta Divarchei speculatrix villa profundi. Surtus Syl*





place are still discernible. On the very extremity of the Cape, impending over the sea, stands a row of vaulted chambers, before which appear the vestiges of a portico\*, or hall. Its form is that of an obtuse angle. These rooms commanded a double view : one of Sorrento and Vesuvius ; the † other, of Naples‡, Puzzoli, and Ischia§. Part of the painting remains upon the walls. Behind these buildings, the promontory narrows into an isthmus, pierced in the middle with a deep round bason, into which the sea has access by a passage under the rocks. As the waves have no force left when they enter it, and its opening is surrounded by ruins, this was no doubt the situation of the baths||. Three-arched conduits brought fresh water to them\*\* from a large reservoir at the foot of the mountain ; high rocks, covered with olive-trees, defend †† this place from the boisterous scirocco, and boats find a safe

\* Per obliquas erepit porticus arces  
Urbis opus, longoque domat saxa aspera dorso.

† Una Diætis  
Parthenopen directo limite ponti.

‡ Ingerit  
Celsa Dicarchæi speculatrix villa profundi.

§ Hæc videt Inarimen, illi Prochyta aspera paret.

|| Gemina testudine fumant  
Balnea.

\*\* E terris occurrit dulcis amaro  
Nympha mari.

†† Monti intervenit imum  
Littus et in terras scopulis pendentibus exit.



retreat in a circular creek, which divides the Cape into two peninsulas\*. From hence I sailed along the woody coast of Massa, a diocese without a town; for all the dwelling-houses are dispersed in small clusters along the verdant declivity. We lay upon our oars a few hours to take some refreshment, and then sailed to Naples, where we arrived by moonlight. The evening was warm and mild, and the sea smooth as glass; the lights of the fish-markets reflected on its surface, formed a most splendid illumination.

\* Placido lunata recessu,

Hinc atque hinc curvas prorumpunt æquora rupes—

Ponunt hic lassæ furorem

Æquora.

Nulloque tumultu

Stagna modesta jacent.

## J O U R N E Y

FROM

NAPLES TO TARANTO.

## SECTION IX.

ON the twelfth of April 1777, I set out with S. T. G. from Naples by the Porta Capuana. We rode our own horses, but had a chaise to carry our baggage and ourselves occasionally. A broad avenue of poplars renders this outlet more regular than any other. On the left hand are the aqueducts that convey water to the city, and supply several fountains erected by the Viceroys, in the last century, for ornament and the relief of travellers. Above is a beautiful ridge of woody hills, called Il Campo di Lautrec, from Odet de Foix, Maréchal

de Lautrec, who, in 1528, at the head of the French army, invaded the kingdom of Naples, subdued the northern provinces, and drove the Imperialists into the capital. On the twenty-ninth of April, he pitched his camp on this eminence, and by his approach threw the Neapolitans into the utmost consternation. Their terrors redoubled on the failure of their usual miracle, the liquefaction of the blood of St. Januarius: a disappointment, in their opinion, the certain forerunner of some weighty calamity. The horrors of famine soon began to be severely felt in so populous a town, and the distress was enhanced by the enemy's breaking down the aqueducts; but what was intended for its ruin proved its salvation, and the contrivance turned against the besiegers: for the waters, thus diverted from their channel, and obstructed in their passage, ran waste over the low grounds, stagnated in pools, and, through the excessive heat of the season, corrupted. The putrefaction was accelerated by the fermentation of a great quantity of corn, which Virticillo, a famous outlaw, purposely threw into the ditches as he passed along with a supply of provisions for the city. From the malignant vapours exhaled by these putrid swamps, a pestilential disease arose, which, in a short time, destroyed the greatest part of the French army, and, on the fifteenth of August, died their brave commander. His remains were interred under his own tent, the siege was raised, most of the French that survived the contagion were taken or put to



the sword, and few escaped to carry an account of the catastrophe to their own country.

Were it becoming a reasonable man to adopt the Neapolitan idea of St. Januarius's blood being endowed with the gift of prophecy, one might suppose, that its obstinate induration had not in view the mere event of the siege, but rather pointed to a cruel disease, which made its first appearance in our hemisphere at that period, and in that camp. It is said, that this tremendous scourge of debauchery was first imported by the companions of Christopher Columbus from the Charibbee islands, where it was an aboriginal malady; and that women infected by them were designedly sent out of Naples to spread contagion among the French, by whom the infernal poison was communicated to the rest of Europe. But authors differ in their opinions concerning the introduction of this disorder: some incline to give it an eastern or Egyptian, not an American origin, and ground their notion upon the inscription of a tomb in the church of S. Maria del Popolo at Rome\*. This monument is erected to the memory of a noble Roman, who died *peste inguinaria* in 1485, which is six years before Columbus's return from the New World. The difficulty lies in proving this *peste inguinaria* to be really the disease in question, and not a

\* Marco Antonii equitis Romani filio ex nobili Albertonum familia corpore animoque insigni, qui annum agens xxx peste inguinaria interiit anno salutis Christianæ MCCCCLXXXV. die xxii Julii hæredes B. M. P.

plague that had its ulcer in the groin, as others have theirs under the arm, in the side, or elsewhere; for it is an observation made by many medical practitioners in the Levant, that each plague throws out its mortal tumour in one particular part of the body upon all patients. If this sentiment of the lues, coming from the East were incontrovertible, it would follow, that to all the accumulated horrors of tyranny, rapine, and murder, exercised by the Europeans upon the innocent Americans, we might add the introduction of a fatal and loathsome disease, which completed the desolation of that continent, by destroying the few wretches their sword had spared.

On the declivity stands the church of Santa Maria del Pianto, or of Tears, erected over the mouth of some deep excavations, where the bodies of many thousand persons, carried off by a plague in 1656, were brought in carts from Naples, and walled up. This pestilence far exceeded in devastation that of 1528; for, in the space of six months, it dispatched 400,000 people in the kingdom of Naples, although the provinces of farther Calabria and Otranto escaped the infection.

An avenue of cypresses, sloping up the hill, gloomily points out the Campo Santo, or Cemetery of the Hospital for Incurables. It stands loftily, and remote from all habitations of the living, and is most admirably contrived for its melancholy purposes. Divine service is performed under a spacious portico at the entrance, and a high wall incloses

incloses a flagged court, about two hundred and sixty feet square. Under it are three hundred and sixty-five very deep vaults hewn in the rock, one of which is in its turn opened each day of the year, to receive the bodies of such as died the preceding evening in the hospital. The first tenants of this repository were the wretches who perished in the great famine in 1764. The tufa, of which the rocks of all these hills are composed, has a most powerful drying quality, and soon parches up the corpses that are consigned to its bosom.

At the distance of one mile from Naples, we passed by the ruins of Poggio Reale, a villa built by Alphonfus the Second, while Duke of Calabria. He caused to be painted in the apartments the principal occurrences of his father's reign, and took great delight in embellishing this palace, which, nevertheless, does not appear to have been possessed of any natural beauties worth cherishing. It was vilely situated at the foot of the hills, on the very edge of the marshes that lie between Naples and Vesuvius. The waters of the Sebeto, an insignificant brook, dignified with the title of river, make these lands extremely fruitful, and proper for kitchen-stuff; but, in summer, aguish and dangerous to inhabit. In ancient times it may have been more considerable, and received many supplies, which the eruptions of Vesuvius have dried up or turned off; but its



fize has long been very trifling. Boccaccio, who saw it in the days of King Robert, pleasantly stiles it a river,

*Quanto ricco d'onor, tanto povero d'acque.*

As rich as it is in fame, so poor is it in water.

We soon after left the hilly grounds to descend into the immense plains of Nola, one entire grove of tall elms and poplars, planted in rows to support the vines growing at their feet, and stretching their branches from tree to tree in beautiful garlands. Between the lines, the husbandman sows corn and pulse without any fallow; and, to prevent the land from being exhausted, raises early crops of lupins and beans, which he hoes up before they fructify, and buries for manure. The harrowing and rolling is performed by oxen. This scene for a while astonishes and fills the eye; but, from the extent of the plantation, the sameness of objects, and the total exclusion of all prospect, it soon becomes unpleasant and fatiguing. The soil is a sandy volcanic loam, in a high degree rich and vegetative. The close shade of so much wood preserves it in a due state of moisture, without which its fertility would be greatly diminished by the heat of the climate; but this shade gives the whole country a disagreeable damp smell.

Near a village called Cisterna, we found masons at work in a quarry of dark-blue lava, similar to the pavement of Naples. This place is exactly situated so as to  
have

have Monte Somma in a line between it and the cone of Vesuvius, of which nothing appears but the column of smoke: a clear proof, that these layers of lava cannot have run out of the present crater, as the height of the ridge of Somma would prevent any matter from being poured over it, unless the actual volcano first filled up and levelled to the brim the intermediate valley, called Atrio del Cavallo. Every naturalist, that is not blinded by the prejudices of some system formed in his closet, and implicitly adhered to in all his researches, must allow, that it is impossible to account for these quarries, without supposing Somma to have been, in former ages, one of the sides of a much larger volcano than the present ignivomous mountain; and that, upon the falling in of that enormous mass, subsequent eruptions must, out of one of the sides, have heaved up Vesuvius as we now behold it.

## SECTION X.

WE turned off to the left to see Nola, a city that affords little scope for observation, as the ruins of its ancient edifices are almost obliterated. Nothing remains of the two amphitheatres but some brick walls, the marble casing having been taken away by an Earl of Nola to build his palace.

Some anecdotes render its history interesting. Augustus died here at the age of seventy-five years, said to have

been poisoned in a dish of figs by Livia, upon his betraying a return of tenderness towards his own family ; but, methinks, old age and infirmities were sufficient causes for the death of a man worn out with the fatigue of a long reign over a nation of conquerors, whom his cruelty and policy had reduced, from the haughtiest of republicans, to the most abject slaves that ever crouched beneath the iron rod of despotism. His faithful friend and fortunate general, Marcus Agrippa, was surprised by death a few years before him in the same place.

Saint Paulinus, a native of Bourdeaux, died Bishop of Nola in 431. He was an ingenious poet, and had been Consul. He is said to have been the inventor of bells by the Nolans, who arrogate to themselves the merit of having furnished society with this useful instrument ; but I rather suppose him to have been the first who introduced them into churches, and hung them up in steeples, for the purpose of summoning the faithful to prayers. Before his time, Christians made use of wooden rattles, *sacra ligna*, to call the congregation together, no bells being allowed by government to a proscribed sect. The ancients had bells both for prophane and sacred service. Polybius mentions them, and we learn by a tale in Strabo, that market-time was announced by them\*.

Pliny

\* He relates, that at Jassicum, a musician, who had drawn a great crowd of auditors about him, was suddenly deserted by them all, except one man, who



Pliny assures us, that the tomb of Porfena, King of Tuscany, was hung round with bells, and the *Lebetes* of the temple of Dodona were certainly a species of them. The hour of bathing was made known at Rome by the sound of a bell; the night watchman carried one, and it served to call up the servants in great houses. Sheep had them tied about their necks to frighten away wolves, or rather by way of amulet. In our days, this custom, like many other ethnic ones, serves as a wild stock to graft a devout ceremony upon. Bells are now placed under the protection of St. Anthony and others, blessed and flung round the necks of cattle and sheep, to preserve them from epidemical disorders. Shepherds also think the sound pleases the beast, and makes it eat its meat with more cheerfulness and benefit; at least, this facilitates the finding of those who have strayed from their pasture.

We are told by Lucian, that the priests of the Syrian goddess had bells, which they tinkled by way of awaking the charity of bigots. I have seen many counterparts of these beggars in Italy, hermits and mendicant friars, who warn you with a bell, that they are about to make a demand upon your purse.

who was rather hard of hearing. The performer paid him a compliment upon his taste for harmony, which detained him after the sound of the bells had caused all the rest of the auditory to quit the place. "What (says the deaf man) has the bell rung? then the fish-market is open, and I must run away too."

Zonaras

Zonaras writes, that criminals going to execution had a bell tied to them, to give notice to all passengers, that no one might unawares cross their way, and by the accidental touching of them become unclean. This superstition may be the real origin of the custom in England of parish bells ringing while a malefactor is on his way to the gallows; though it is generally supposed to be meant as a signal to all hearers, admonishing them to pray for the passing soul. Most of our religious practices date higher than we are willing to allow; and, at all events, I cannot be blamed for hazarding an opinion, which, by shewing the custom to be of heathenish extraction, tends in some degree to relieve many tender consciences, who daily lament, that so many relicks of popery are suffered to subsist in this protestant country.

According to Suetonius, Augustus having built, on the edge of the Capitoline hill, a temple to Jupiter the *Thunderer*, where he was remarkably constant in his devotions, dreamt that the *Capitoline* Jupiter appeared to him, and chid him for debauching all his votaries from him; and that he had answered the god by declaring, He had placed the *Thunderer* so near only by way of porter. In order to make good the assertion, the superstitious Emperor fixed bells under the roof of the new temple, within reach of the door. We may infer from hence, that strangers rang  
for

for admittance at the gates of grandees in those days, just as they do in ours\*.

Giordano Bruni, born at Nola in the sixteenth century, made a great noise in the theological world, by means of a small book, mentioned with contempt by the Spectator, who, in his 389th number, gives an account of it. This pamphlet, under the title of *Spaccio della besta trionfante*, treats all religions equally as human inventions; laughs at miracles and revelations as so many impostures rendered mischievous by the arts of an interested priesthood: it declares the plain law of nature to be the only rule of life worthy to be followed by a being endued with reason; besides many other opinions, which the whole church of Christ holds in utter abhorrence, and unanimously anathematizes. Bruni resided long at the court of Queen Elizabeth, under the protection of several great men; but venturing back to Italy in 1600, was seized by the inquisition, and burnt at Venice.

It is impossible to ascertain who were the first people that settled at Nola; but its coins prove it to have been at

\* Bells appear to have derived their Latin appellations of *Nola* and *Campana* from this city and its province, either on account of its mines of copper (if any such there were), the celebrity of its founderies, or the expertness of its bell-casters. Quintilian is the first author that makes use of the term *Nola*; before him, *Tintinnabulum* was the common name; and in St. Jerome's time was the first appearance of the word *Campana*.

The modern Nolans can boast of little skill in the founding art; and, indeed, a good ring of bells is a thing unthought of in the kingdom: it does not enter the head of a Neapolitan, that any skill can be required in a bell-ringer.



one time inhabited by Greeks. They differ in nothing but the legend from those of ancient Naples\*.

Nola seems to have been a city of consequence under the first Emperors, and to have had a navigable cut that communicated with the Sarno, or the sea. What makes this idea less paradoxical is, that anchors, rings, and other appurtenances of navigation have been dug up near the town. Vesuvius has overwhelmed so many more considerable objects, that it ought not to excite much wonder, if, at this day, all traces are lost of any such canal; but, perhaps, these fragments of shipping ought to be ascribed to those very remote ages, in which the sea flowed up to the foot of the Apennine, and spread itself over the whole intermediate plain.

This lordship was included in the grants made by Charles of Anjou to Guy † de Montfort, the companion of his victories, and one of the sons of our famous Earl of Leicester. His only daughter married Raymond Orfino, the first of that illustrious Roman family that settled in

\* Numm. Nol.—1. Caput Dianæ.—Minotaurus gradiens victoriâ supervolitante ΝΩΛΑΙΩΝ. Arg. Ex Cimel. meo.

2. Caput Palladis galeatum cum lauro et noctua.—Minotaurus sub. Æ.—ΝΩΛΑΙΩΝ—Ær.

† This Guy was the man, who, in revenge of his father's death, murdered Henry, son of the King of the Romans, in the church of Viterbo. After a short retreat from court, and a mock penance, he was restored to favour by Charles, whose character suffered much in the opinion of all good men for this partiality to an assassin. Guy was at last taken prisoner in a sea-fight by the Aragones, and cast into a dungeon, where he died.

the kingdom of Naples, where his posterity afterwards became Princes of Taranto and Salerno, and still remain Dukes of Gravina. Orso Orfini, Earl of Nola, made a great figure in the wars between the Kings of the Aragonian line and their Barons. His branch failed in 1533; and since that time this honour has remained vested in the crown.

## SECTION XI.

WE joined the road again at a village belonging to the Albertini. It is called Cimitile, by corruption from Cœmeterium, the real name, which it received from a great number of martyrs buried here in the suffering ages of Christianity. Here begins the road through the mountains into Puglia, opened in 1593, and repaired by the present King of Spain. The late learned Canon Mazzocchi composed elaborate Latin epigraphes in honour of the undertaking, which are placed upon screens or pieces of wall ornamented in a very bad taste.

We now entered a pleasant valley that winds up between hills into the very bosom of the Apennines. These hills advance into the plain like bold promontories, and seem to indicate that, in some remote century, they were washed by the waves of the sea, till the soil at their foot was so raised by the increase of marine subsidences, the workings

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of

of underground fires, or the accumulation of cinders vomited out of Vesuvius, as at length to confine the waters to the bounds of the present gulf. Cinerated substances compose the interior strata of these eminences; but it is a debateable point, whether they were cast hither in showers by the neighbouring volcano, or thrown up by particular eruptions of their own. The surface is covered with thick woods of chestnut-trees, a plant I have observed to delight in this sort of soil: it grows luxuriantly on Monte Somma, the heights of the Camaldoli near Naples, the Pyrenees near medicinal springs, and, in general, in the neighbourhood of subterraneous fires; not to mention the gigantic trees that for ages have darkened the sides of Etna.

On the skirts of the plain appear the castle and town of Avella, in a delightful situation, commanding a view as far as Naples. They gave name to a family descended from the ancient Dukes of Austria. Rinaldo Avella commanded the army of Charles the Second in Sicily, and gained great honour by his gallant defence of Augusta. In the reign of Joan the First, the heiress of the Avelli married into the house of Baux, or Del Balzo \*. By a grant of Ferdinand the First, Avella went to Orso Orfini, then

\* It passed for being a branch of the Visigothic Balti, a family that boasted of having given a long line of monarchs to the Western Goths, with the formidable name of Alaric at the head of the list. The De Baux accompanied Charles the First from Provence, where they had once possessed an independent sovereignty. From his liberal hand they received ample infeudations



then passed through the Spinelli and Cataneo lines, and now gives the title of Prince to Doria of Genoa.

Not far from hence are the ruins of Abella, a place, as Virgil informs us, celebrated for the quality of its apples :

Et quos maliferæ despectant mænia Abellæ \*.

Some editions read *melliferæ*. Either reading is characteristical; for the environs are still as remarkable for the abundance and perfection of their fruit, as for the flavour of their honey. The ancient walls remain in many places, and inclose a circuit of near three miles. In the middle are the fragments of an amphitheatre, with some dens and substructions.

At a large village, called Cardinale, we came to the head of the valley, and began to climb up a very lofty ridge; the ascent easy, and the road good, overhung with fine woods that stretch from the top of the mountain to the bottom, now and then leaving openings for bold rugged cliffs to rise up in shaggy horror along the summit. These mountains are rendered famous in Neapolitan history by the adventurous journey of Manfred, who, after making his escape from the Pope, wandered over these rocky

of the conquered country; but marriage proved a source of much greater riches, and enabled them to vie in wealth, rank, and power, with the Sanseverini, Marfans, and Orfini. Their race ended with the Earl of Castro in Charles the Fifth's reign.

\* "And those whom the walls of apple-bearing Abella look down upon."

wilderneſſes, in order to penetrate into Puglia, where he expected to meet with partifans; and by the ſtill more hazardous paſſage of René of Anjou, who, in the middle of winter, in the darkeſt night, travelled through deep ſnows and pathleſs foreſts, to avoid being ſtopped in his way to Abruzzo, where he was obliged to make his appearance in perſon, to rouse Anthony Caldora, his moſt powerful adherent, from a fatal political lethargy. René was the father of Margaret, wife of our Henry the Sixth. He was one of the moſt amiable of men; he not only patronized learning in others, but cultivated letters himſelf, with no contemptible ſucceſs for the times he lived in, when ignorance and barbariſm ſtill reigned in France, though Petrarch and Boccaccio had already carried Italian literature to a wonderful degree of perfection. René ſtruggled long with Alphonſus of Aragon before he gave up the conteſt; and, when deprived of every means of ſupporting the war, ſtill kept a large party together by no other tye than the veneration and love with which his affability, courage, and noble ſpirit, had inſpired all that approached his perſon.

Montforte, a village with a ruinous tower, wildly ſituated on the point of a rock, commands the paſs, and an extenſive view into the heart of the Principato Ultra. This inſignificant place, from the ſingular advantages of its poſition, has more than once ſtopped whole armies. Charles the Firſt beſtowed it on the Montforts, more  
on.

on account of a similitude of name, than the value of the fief.

The descent on the eastern side is shorter than that into Terra di Lavoro, as the plains of the latter lie much below the level of the valley we were entering. The landscape before us was extremely beautiful, being embellished with great variety of culture, enlivened by the whiteness of the houses, and the waters of the Sabato, a clear stream, that winds its way through woods and orchards; dark solemn mountains overshadow it on every side, except where a large opening lets in a view of the distant hills, and of the passage to the Adriatic.

The Sabato takes its rise, at no great distance up the vale, from numberless springs bubbling up through a bed of pebbles, and running together into a pool full of trout. The scenery round the pond, and down the course of this pleasant rivulet, is exceedingly romantic, as the wild beauties of nature melt gradually into the more regular features of art and cultivation.

An avenue, near a mile in length, conducted us to the gates of Avellino. The trees are poplars, remarkable for their height, bulk, and closeness of foliage.

## SECTION



## SECTION XII.

THE present city of Avellino most probably owes its foundation to the Lombards. The first of its lords that I find mentioned in history is Ranulph, who flourished in the twelfth century, was a baron of mighty power, and brother-in-law to King Roger. This alliance did not prevent his heading a party against that monarch, whose forces he defeated in several encounters: had not death put a stop to his progress, he would undoubtedly have stripped the King of many rich provinces, and formed to himself an independent state, as the Pope and the Emperor had already granted him investiture of the Duchy of Puglia. Roger dell' Aquila was Earl of Avellino in 1160. It was granted by Charles the First to Simon de Montfort; but he being killed in a duel by Fulk Ruffo, the honour returned to the crown.

The family of Baux was afterwards possessed of it. The Filangeri had it next by a donation from Charles the Third; and their heirs having married Sergianni Caracciolo, the famous favourite of Joan the Second, the estate came into the family of Caracciolo, in which it remains to this day with the title of Prince. However, it appears to have been forfeited, as Marino Caracciolo purchased it  
long

long after. It is not clear whence the Caraccioli came, nor can much confidence be placed in the stories promulgated by some authors, who make them out to be descendants of the ancient Greeks, Romans, or Goths. A learned friend of mine is of opinion, that they came first out of Germany with Frederick or Henry, and these are his reasons: They are never mentioned in any public transaction before the time of the Swabian princes. An ancient chronicle says expressly, that the Emperor Frederick the Second never entrusted the command of his armies or fortresses to any but Germans or Saracens; and in the next page speaks of a *Caracsols* as leader of a division of the Imperial forces. Matthew Spinelli of Giovenazzo, a contemporary writer, furnishes a still stronger proof, by assuring us, that Peter Pignatelli rendered himself very odious to many families, particularly to the Caraccioli, by advising Charles of Anjou, on the approach of Conradine, to banish all the nobles of German extraction, as being men of doubtful loyalty. The foundation of their grandeur was laid by the unshaken fidelity of John Caracciolo, who, being besieged by rebels in the castle of Ischia, of which he had been appointed governor by the Emperor Frederick, chose rather to perish in the flames that consumed the fortress, than surrender his trust. His master was not insensible to such a proof of attachment, but expressed the warmest sentiments of gratitude for his memory; and conferred such honours and riches on his sons, as raised them



to great consequence in the state. The family has ever since been much considered by its sovereigns; and the branches sent off from the main stock have become as wealthy and powerful as itself, and are at this day upon a par with the noblest and richest houses in the kingdom. Five of these branches are proprietors of a very singular Bank, called *Il Monte Ciarletto*, which secures a noble portion to their daughters, and of late to their younger sons. The story of its foundation is as follows:—Charles Caracciolo had an only daughter, whom he was determined to marry to one of his kinsmen, that his rich inheritance might remain in the family. This match was contrary to the inclinations of the young lady, who positively refused to acquiesce in it. Her enraged father shut her up in a convent, where she took the veil by compulsion; but soon after, in a fit of despair, put an end to her existence. Charles, distracted with remorse and grief, did not long survive the child he had used so cruelly; and by way of atonement determined, if possible, to prevent any Caracciola from becoming a nun, at least from a want of fortune: he therefore established a fund to accumulate for them. When any daughter of the family marries, she receives the interests and savings accruing from the bank since the last person was endowed. It never has been more than an hundred thousand ducats (£18,750). A change has lately taken place, through the address and management of a lady married to one of these Caraccioli.



The marriage portion of the women is limited to 70,000 ducats, and the remainder of the produce is to be appropriated to the education and maintenance of the younger sons. The director of this Bank has a house, table, and equipage, provided for him. Several similar funds have been established by associated families, in imitation of the bank of the Ciarletto.

Avellino is a considerable city, extending a mile in length down the declivity of a hill, with ugly streets, but tolerable houses. The churches have nothing to recommend them, being crowded with monstrous ornaments in a barbarous style, which the Neapolitans seem to have borrowed from the Spaniards. The cathedral is a poor building, in a wretched situation, with little to attract the eye, except some uncouth Latin distichs, and shapeless Gothic sculpture. The good people of this town need not run to Naples to see the blood of St. Januarius; for they have a statue of St. Laurence, with a phial of his blood, which for eight days, in August, entertains them with a similar miraculous liquefaction. Their only edifice of note is a public granary, of the Composite order, adorned with antique statues, and a very elegant bronze one of Charles the Second, King of Spain, while a boy, cast by Cavalier Cosimo.

The number of inhabitants amounts to eight thousand, some say ten thousand. The Bishop's revenue is about six thousand ducats (£1,125) a year. The magistracy

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consists

consists of a Syndic and four Eletti, all annual; which offices are engrossed by a certain number of families of some distinction, that neither intermarry nor associate with the rest of the burghers.

The Prince has estates here to the yearly value of twenty thousand ducats (£ 3,750), of which two thousand arise from duties on the dye of cloth, which is made of various qualities and colours, but chiefly blue. The finest sells for thirty carlini a canna, and pays twenty-six grana duty of entrance into Naples. This tax is a piece of blundering management, but too common in the kingdom; the offspring of short-sighted rapacity, fostered by government at the expence of all home-trade, and to the discouragement of every species of industry. Many wealthy merchants have a concern in this cloth business, some with a capital of eighty thousand ducats (£ 15,000). The poor women, who spin the wool, must work very hard to earn above four grana a day.

The second article of trade is *maccaroni* and *paste* of many kinds, which, being of an excellent quality, are in high repute all over the country. Wooden chairs are also made and sold here in great quantities.

Avellino abounds with provisions of every sort; each street is supplied with wholesome water; the wine is but indifferent. The soil of this district, which consists chiefly of volcanic substances, produces little corn, but fruit in abundance, of which the apple is deservedly held in great esteem.

esteem. The most profitable, however, of all its fruit-trees is the hazel. Nut bushes cover the face of the valley, and in good years bring in a profit of sixty thousand ducats (£11,250). I enquired into many particulars concerning the nuts, and believe they are mostly of the large round species of filbert, which we call Spanish. These bushes were originally imported into Italy from Pontus, and known among the Romans by the appellation of *Nux Pontica*, which, in process of time, was changed into that of *Nux Avellana*, from the place where they had been propagated with the greatest success. The proprietors plant them in rows, and by dressing, form them into large bushes of many stems. Every year they refresh the roots with new earth, and prune off the straggling shoots with great attention.

## SECTION XIII.

THE women of this neighbourhood are handsome, and take great pains to deck out their persons to advantage. Once a week they wash their hair with a lye of wood-ashes, that changes it from a dark brown colour to a flaxen yellow of many different tints in the same head of hair. This I take to be the true *flava cæsaries* of the Latin poets. Experience has taught me to discover many traces of ancient customs in the modes and habits of the modern



Italians. Attentive observation will make a person, to whom the classic writings are familiar, sensible of this resemblance every day he passes in the southern parts of Italy, especially if he has opportunities of studying the manners of the lower class of inhabitants, whose character has as yet received but a slight tinge from a mixture with foreigners. He will recognize the *Præfæ* of the ancients, in the appearance and actions of old women that are hired in Calabria to howl at burials. The funeral behaviour and measure of grief in the Calabrese are regulated by the strictest etiquette. The virtues as well as vices of a deceased father of a family are recapitulated by the oldest person in company. The widow repeats his words, adds comments of her own, then roars out loudly, and plucks off handfuls of her hair, which she strews over the bier. Daughters tear their locks, and beat their breasts, but remain silent. More distant relations repeat the oration coolly, and commit no outrage upon their persons. When the kinsman of a baron or rich citizen dies, a number of old women are hired to perform all these ceremonies for the family.

At Naples, the forms are rather different. I was one day witness of the funeral of an old fisherman. The actions of his widow were so overstrained as to be truly ridiculous: she tore off her hair and clothes, and yelled in the most hideous manner, till her step-sons appeared to take possession of the goods: she then turned her fury upon them, and beat them out of the house. The priests now came for  
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the body, and she opposed their entry for a decent length of time ; but at last, suffering herself to be overpowered by numbers, flew to the window with her daughters and her mother (who, from having outlived many relations, had scarce a hair left on her head), and there beat her breast, scratched her cheeks, and threw whole handfuls of hair towards the bier with the frantic gestures of a demoniac. The procession was no sooner out of sight, than all was quiet ; and in five minutes I heard them laughing and dancing about the room, as if rejoicing to be rid of the old churl.

In some parts of the country, it is a rule to fast the whole day of the interment. Two women, in a village near Salerno, mother and daughter of a farmer, at whose removal from the house they had acted their parts with great applause, locked themselves up, and, in order to recover strength after the fatigue they had undergone, began, in defiance of custom, to fry some pieces of tripe for their dinner. As ill luck would have it, a couple of relations, who, living at a great distance, had come too late for the ceremony, knocked at the door to pay their respects to the disconsolate widow. Great was the difficulty they found in gaining admittance : all the parade of grief was again displayed, the dinner slipped into a napkin, and hid under the bed, and nothing heard in the room but groans and lamentations. The strangers entered with composed mien,  
and

and were endeavouring, with little success, to administer comfort to their unhappy kinswomen, when, behold! a dog they had brought with them wined the fry, and dragged it out into the middle of the floor, to the great scandal of the visitors, and the utter confusion of the mourners, whose reputation was irretrievably ruined in the esteem of the whole parish.

The verse in Virgil,

\* Hinc altâ sub rupe canet frondator ad auras,      ECL. I.

naturally occurs, when, in our walks under the rocky cliffs of Posilipo, we see the peasant swinging from the top of a tree on a rope of twisted willows, trimming the poplar, and the luxuriant tendrils of the vine, and hear him make the whole vale ring with his rustic ditty.

A classic scholar cannot stroll under the groves of the plain, without calling to mind Horace's

† Durus  
Vindemiator et invictus, cui sæpe viator  
Cessisset, magnâ compellans voce cucullum.      SAT. 7.

if he attend to the vine-dresser sitting among the boughs, lashing raw lads and bashful maidens, as they return from market, with the same gross wit and rough jokes that gave such zest of old to the farces of Atella.

\* "The lopper shall sing to the winds under the lofty rock."

† A rough and invincible vine dresser, before whom the traveller often retired, calling him with a loud voice Cuckow."



The Neapolitan girls dance to the snapping of their fingers and the beat of a tambourine, and whirl their petticoats about them. With greater elegance in the position, and more airiness in the flow of the drapery, striking likenesses of them may be found among the paintings of Herculaneum.

A young fisherman of Naples naturally throws his limbs into most graceful attitudes; and it was, no doubt, from the study of similar figures, that the Grecian statuaries drew their nice ideas of beauty and perfection of forms.

If an antiquary longs for a Roman dish, Sorrento will supply him with the paps of a sow, dressed in the antique taste, by the name of Verrina; and I believe Peregrine Pickle's learned friend might, with a little attention, discover sufficient remnants of ancient cookery in the environs of Naples, to make out a tolerable bill of fare.

To this day, the rigging of small vessels on the Neapolitan coast answers the descriptions left us of ancient sailing. I doubt whether it be an easy matter to comprehend the manœuvres of Ulysses or Æneas in their various navigations, without having examined the trim of one of these boats; nay, I believe it scarce possible to enter into the spirit of the classic authors, without a previous visit to Italy or Greece. I am certain at least, that my travels on classic ground have rendered me infinitely more sensible of their beauties, than I ever should have been had I remained at home.

## SECTION XIV.

WE made an excursion, two miles to the right, to Atripalda, a small town built upon the ruins of Abellinum Marficum, as a great number of mutilated basso-relievos, altars, and inscriptions attest. The inhabitants are supposed to have retired from it in the middle ages, and to have founded the present city of Avellino, a situation more convenient for traffic. Atripalda, which drives on some trade in paper, cloth, and hardware, stands upon an eminence composed of strata of a soft-coloured tufo. This kind of petrification has been produced by the cementation of ashes, earthy particles, and water, thrown out of burning mountains; is generally of a yellow cast, with fissures, and marked with horizontal wavy streaks. I saw here a very delicate species of knot-grass, called Finello, which grows in the woods, is silky, and used in stuffing pack-saddles and chair-bottoms.

In 1501, when the French and Spaniards divided the kingdom between them, the former held their courts of justice for the principality of Benevento at Avellino; and, upon a dispute arising between the two nations concerning their claims to the possession of the province, the Spaniards sent their law-officers to hold an assize at Atripalda. The French immediately attacked them there, and by this act  
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of hostility provoked a war that ended in their own expulsion out of the realm.

This town was first held in fee by the Montforts; it was afterwards granted by Ferdinand the First to George Castriot, known by the name of Scanderbeg, Prince of Epirus, as a reward for his timely assistance in 1460, when he came from Greece with a strong force, raised the siege of Barletta, and discomfited the army of John of Anjou: it now gives title of Duke to the Prince of Avellino's eldest son.

The road was thronged with mules, pigs, sheep, and cattle of a large grey breed, going to the fair of Atripalda. The current price of a good mule is sixty ducats (11*l.* 5*s.*); of a pair of bullocks, a hundred ducats (18*l.* 5*s.*).

As we returned very early, it was agreed to spend the afternoon in a visit to the Convent of Monte Vergine, which our guide pointed out to us on a wild mountain, hanging over Avellino, every now and then hidden from our sight by white clouds that drove along its side. The journey to it was rather fatiguing; but the incomparable view it afforded made us pay little regard to the trouble of climbing. We unluckily arrived at an undue hour, which deprived us of the pleasure of conversing with any of the monks, except an ignorant lay-brother, who shewed us the church. Not having had an opportunity of procuring information on the spot, I shall give a

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summary



summary of what I have since learnt concerning this monastery.

In Pagan times, this mountain was sacred to the Mother of the Gods, who had here a sumptuous temple, of which four columns of Portasanta marble\* are employed in the present fabric. In the musæum of the convent is preserved a basso-relievo, representing a boy with a cornucopiæ, a serpent twined round a fig-tree, and a tripod, emblems of the worship of Cybele; she was supposed to wander through the woods, in search of medicinal herbs for the cure of disorders incident to little children, and was therefore looked upon as the universal mother; Atys, her high-priest, pronounced oracles, or gave out prescriptions, from a three-legged stool. Tradition says, the mountain took its name from one Virginius, or Virgilius, a great necromancer, who had a garden full of medicinal herbs, with which he composed his magical drugs; there is still a level spot of ground called l'Orto di Virgilio, and the mountain abounds with vulnerary plants.

Long after Christianity had seated itself on the throne of the Cæsars, long after the inhabitants of most cities had conformed to the sovereign's mode of worship, the wild mountainous parts of Italy remained obscured by the clouds of idolatry. The Apennine was full of heathens, and from their residing in pagi, or villages, the name of Pagani came

\* A species of marble, so named from the Jubilee-door of St. Peter's at Rome, which is composed of it.

to be synonymous to that of Believer in the ancient deities of the empire\*. The missionaries sent among them to preach the faith of Christ, found no means of conversion so easy and efficacious as those of admitting some of the names and ceremonies of the old church into the ritual of the new one. By thus adopting many tenets and forms of Paganism, they reconciled their proselytes to the idea of exchanging Jupiter for Jehovah, and their lares and penates for saints and guardian angels. To this expedient of priestcraft must be ascribed many strange devotions and local superstitions, still prevalent in Roman Catholic countries, which ought not to be confounded by the adversaries of that church with its real doctrines. All the truly learned and sensible persons of that communion reject, abhor, and lament such depravation; and, were it possible to reason rude minds out of hereditary prejudices, would long since have abolished them.

It was no doubt in compliance with the above conciliatory method, that in 1119 the mountain was rescued from the patronage of the mother of the false gods, and dedicated to the Mother of Christ, by William of Vercelli. He retired into these solitudes to exercise upon his youthful flesh all manner of holy barbarities; and when zeal and

\* From an inscription found at Atripalda, in 1712, we learn that the pagan religion flourished in the Neapolitan provinces after the death of Constantine the Great. It relates that the senate and people of Abellinum erected a statue to C. J. Tatianus, Consular of Campania, Priest of Vesta and Hercules. He was in office during the reigns of Constantine's children.



fasting had well heated his imagination, was favoured with an apparition, that enjoined him to erect a convent on the spot. In obedience to the command, he founded this abbey, the mother church of a reform of the Benedictine order. The monks are dressed in white, and had once spread themselves over several countries; but are at present confined to one house in the Roman state, and twenty-seven in the kingdom of Naples. Frederic of Swabia was very partial to the Verginians, and instituted a confraternity of knights aggregated to their society. Charles of Valois introduced the order into France; but all traces of it have long been lost there; and we shall probably soon hear of its abolition in Naples, such a project having been in contemplation.

In 1124, William finished his monastery, which was soon enriched with relics fit to attract the notice of pious believers; but it lost a most capital jewel of its treasure in 1467, when Ferdinand the First, under pretence of opposing it to the fury of the plague, obtained leave to transport the body of St. Januarius to Naples. The roguish Neapolitans, having once got possession, refused to return it to the right owners, who are obliged to comfort themselves under this misfortune with the colossal portrait of the Virgin Mary. It was formerly venerated in Antioch, and presented to this sanctuary by Catherine, wife of Philip of Anjou, titular emperor of Constantinople. The head of this picture is very old, but the bust was added by Montano d'Arezzo,  
a cele-



a celebrated artist, to whom Philip gave land near Nola, as a recompence. This image is of gigantic or heroic proportion, and passes for the work of St. Luke the Evangelist, though the very size is an argument against its being a portrait from the life, had we even the slightest reason to believe that he had ever handled the pencil. There are in Italy and elsewhere some dozens of black, ugly Madonnas, which all pass for the work of his hands, and as such are revered\*.

The concourse of votaries is prodigious on the eighth of September, the feast of the nativity of the Patroness. The rule of the Order allows neither fresh nor salt meat, eggs, milk, butter, nor cheese; and surely nobody will venture to bring up any of these prohibited viands, if he be acquainted with an inscription in the court, relating the catastrophe of four hundred pilgrims, burnt in their beds in 1611, because one of them had brought up a luncheon of cheese in

\* The origin of this fable, or rather mistake, appears to be, that, about the time that paintings of holy subjects came into fashion, there lived at Constantinople a painter called Luke, who, by many representations of the Virgin, acquired a very transcendent reputation. He was a man of exemplary life, and on account of his piety, and the edifying use he made of his talents, was generally known by the name of Holy Luke. In process of time, when the epocha and circumstances of his life were forgotten by the vulgar, and his performances had acquired by age a smoky, dusky cast, sufficient to perplex the short-sighted connoisseurs of those days, devotees ascribed his pictures to the Evangelist, who was pronounced a painter, because they knew of no other saint of the name, and because, if he had been a painter, no one could have had such opportunities of examining and delineating the features of the holy model.

his.

his pocket. Our guide hinted to us, that if any one were to eat meat here, or even have a little grease about his person, it would cause a most tremendous hurricane, and overwhelm the whole mountain with a deluge of rain. Charles, King of Hungary, Prince of Salerno, son of Charles the Second, granted to these fathers a patent, by which he forbade all salt fish to be exposed to sale in the fair of Salerno, till the agents of Monte Vergine had made their provision; a privilege they enjoy to this day.

The most ancient monument in the church is a large sarcophagus, which was made to contain the ashes of Minius Proculus: King Manfred intended it should be the repository of his own, and placed it in a chapel he had founded in this religious house; but his bones are left to blanch in the fields unknown, while the urn remains without a tenant. John di Lionessa, marshal of the Angevine army, obtained a grant of the chapel, which became the sepulture of his family. Here also lie the bodies of the Empress Catherine, Mary her daughter, and Lewis her son, married to Queen Joan the First.

On the second of August, 1629, the nave of the church was thrown in by an earthquake, and most of the monuments beaten to dust. The Verginians rebuilt it in nine years, and over an arch of the court placed a pompous inscription, which contains an epitome of their history, and may serve as an epitaph to their expiring Order.

## SECTION XV.

THE traces of fire are still very strong for several miles beyond Avellino, though here and there the burnt matter is intermingled with blocks of breccia, or coarse pudding-stone, which is a conglutination of pebbles. Perhaps, even these have undergone the trial of fire, as it is not uncommon for volcanos to cast up small stones in their natural state, with a quantity of water full of gross viscous particles; all which together may consolidate into masses of breccia. This sort of soil extends as far as La Serra, a straggling hamlet pleasantly situated near Monte Fuscolo.

Benevento being in the possession of the Roman see, the residence of the president and civil officers belonging to the Principato Ultra is fixed at Monte Fuscolo, as being the most central place among the demerit towns. Its prisons are noted for being constantly full of malefactors, which gives but a poor idea of the moral character of the neighbouring inhabitants. They are indeed in very bad repute for robbery and assassination; but a considerable portion of the delinquents are confined for smuggling, to which the vicinity of the papal territories is a great encouragement. The situation of Monte Fuscolo is exceedingly bleak, and the prospect grand over an immense tract of mountainous



mountainous country. Charles of Anjou gave it to Henry de Vaudemont, of the house of Lorraine. It has long been reunited to the crown.

The hills are steep, but the road broad and well made. Upon a rising ground, near the inn of Mirabella, it passes through the ruins of Eclanum, an ancient city, now called by the peasants La Colonia\*. In the early ages of Christianity, here was a bishop's see, since removed to Frigento, and from thence to Avellino. Julian, chief of the Semipelagian heretics, was one of its prelates. It is not known by whom, and at what period, this city was destroyed; at present, the only remains are some mounds, brick walls, fragments of marble columns and entablatures of the Doric and Corinthian orders. A little solitary farmhouse has been added to an antique brick front, ornamented with brick pilasters, that have capitals with one row of leaves. As it stands at a distance from the other ruins, and much resembles some monuments near Rome, I take it to be a mausoleum. We purchased here a few cornelians and medals of the lower empire, dug up by the husbandmen.

In the afternoon, we rode six miles south to Frigento, by a deep valley, where our horses were almost up to the

\* From Benevento the Appian way passed through Eclanum (where the Via Trajana branched off to the left), and from thence through Frigento, Venusia, and Tarentum, to Brundisium.

girths in clay, though the weather had been long dry. The country for the most part arable, and poorly cultivated. Frigento is a ruinous place on a hill, most wretchedly built, and scantily provided with the necessaries of life. Its inhabitants, in number two thousand, subsist by the sale of sheep, hogs, and corn. In the whole town there was not a tolerable inn, where we could venture to pass the night; and should have fared very ill, if we had not accidentally met with an old priest, who carried us to his house in the neighbourhood, where he gave us board and lodging, and entertained us after supper with a relation of his own adventures.

He was born in this province, and educated at Rome. He there attached himself to a prelate likely to rise in the church, and accompanied this clergyman to several courts in quality of secretary to the nunciature; but, on his return to Italy, was supplanted by the artifices of a colleague, turned out of doors, and reduced for a maintenance to copy writings in a public office. His enemies, not satisfied with having ruined his fortunes, caused him to be suspected of being the author of a libel against a cardinal; for which offence he was shut up in the castle of St. Angelo, and, after six months confinement, banished the Roman state. At Naples he entered into a nobleman's family as secretary, and unfortunately becoming the confidant of the eldest son, a mean profligate youth, was engaged in a nocturnal riot, where he saved his patron's life at the expence of two dangerous wounds. The ungrateful

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grateful nobleman took no further notice of him, but left him to languish for many months in a hospital. As soon as he was cured, he set out on foot, penniless and in rags, for the place of his nativity; where, after many years humble attendance on an old relation, he inherited an estate, and obtained a benefice, sufficient to supply him with all the necessaries and comforts of life that so retired a part of the world admits of. This good old philosopher, who saw but little of the people of the neighbourhood, was delighted to spend an evening with company that could converse of Paris, Rome, and other places which he had seen in his juvenile days, a pleasure he seldom tasted; but he could not help expressing, with a sigh, his apprehensions that our visit would cost him a few bitter reflections, as it revived sensations that had been long lulled to rest in the bottom of his soul.

Next morning he accompanied us four miles to the Moffetta, supposed to be the same as the *Amsancti Valles*, through which Virgil makes the fury *Alecto* descend to hell. His dark hanging wood, rumbling noise, and curling vortex, agree perfectly well with the present appearances\*.

We were led into a narrow valley, extending a considerable way to the south-west, and prest in on both sides by high ridges thickly covered with copses of oak. The  
bottom

\* Est locus Italiæ medio sub montibus altis

*Amsancti valles* : densis hunc frondibus atrum

Urget utrimque latus nemoris, medioque fragorus

Dat sonitum faxis et torto vortice torrens.

ÆNEID. lib. 7.

“ There



bottom of the dell is bare and arid: in the lowest part, and close under one of the hills, is an oval pond of muddy ash-coloured water, not above fifty feet in diameter: it boils up in several places with great force in irregular fits, which are always preceded by a hissing sound. The water was several times spouted up as high as our heads in a diagonal direction, a whirlpool being formed round the tube, like a basin, to receive it as it fell. A large body of vapour is continually thrown out with a loud rumbling noise. The stones on the rising ground that hangs over the pool are quite yellow, being stained with the fumes

“ There is a place in the centre of Italy under lofty mountains, called the  
 “ Valley of Amsanctus. On each side a bank of wood, black with thick  
 “ foliage, presses upon it; and in the middle a thundering torrent whirls  
 “ about the stones, and curls up its waves.”

The Abbé Chaupy, author of an ingenious eccentrical dissertation on Horace's country-house, is of opinion, that Virgil meant the sulphureous ponds of Cutiliæ near Rieti, because they are more truly in the center of Italy, and surrounded by higher mountains; and because, when Alecto blows her horn to call the shepherds to arms, he says, it shook the river Nar, and the sources of the Velinus, both which are in the neighbourhood of Cutiliæ; nevertheless, as Chaupy exhibits no proof that Cutiliæ ever bore the name of Amsanctus, and as the mountains of the Principato are certainly lofty enough to justify the expression of “*sub montibus alris*,” I rather incline to leave the Hirpini in quiet possession of this passage into the infernal regions.

Venuti, in Monaldini's folio edition of Virgil, gives a dissertation and print to prove, that the fury went down in a hole at Monte Catino, though he acknowledges there is no pestilential vapour, nor much wood, in that place. The boundaries of Italy have so often varied, that the middle of it cannot be fixed in any precise spot; and I see no reason why a place, equidistant from both seas, may not be said to be in the middle of the country.

of sulphur and sal ammoniac. A most nauseous smell rising with the steam obliged us to watch the wind, and keep clear of it, to avoid suffocation. The water is quite insipid both as to taste and smell; the clay at the edges is white, and carried into Puglia to rub upon scabby sheep, on which account the lake is farmed out at one hundred ducats a year.

On a hill above this lake stood formerly a temple dedicated to the Goddess Mephitis; but I perceived no remains of it.

Having taken leave of our kind conductor, we returned to the great road, and travelled eight miles farther to Ariano, over very high naked hills, not unlike those of Upper Andalusia. Near Grotta Minarda, the Roman road, which Horace followed, strikes off to the right hand to Trevico\*, a baronial town on an eminence, which recommended itself to our notice, by holding a place in that poet's journal; for, since that of the journey from Rome to Reggio, said to have been written by the satirist Lucilius, has not reached us, we may consider Horace's fifth satire as the prototype of all tours and travels; and therefore every stage of it is an object of curiosity and veneration.

\* Trevico is a marquisate of the Loffredi, a family of Lombard or Norman origin. Of this house was Francis, who harangued Charles of Anjou on his triumphal entry into Naples, and was employed by that prince in many embassies and negotiations.

## SECTION XVI.

**A**RIANO is an ugly city, built upon the uneven summit of a mountain, with an extensive look-out on all sides, but exposed to every blast that blows. We found the season very backward here, when compared with the spring we had left in the Terra di Lavoro. It does not appear to be so old as the time of the Romans, therefore may be supposed to owe its rise to the demolition of some neighbouring town, and to the advantages its situation afforded for discovery and defence\*.

The first Earl of Ariano I find recorded in history, was Roger, a person, no doubt, of Norman extraction: he rebelled against King Roger, was taken, stripped of his possessions, and sent prisoner to Sicily. Charles the First gave it to Henry de Vaudemont; the Sabrans were afterwards its lords; and then the Caraffas, the Gonzagas, and, under Alphonfus the First, the Guevaras. In 1466 it became part of the demesne of the Crown.

It is but a poor place, without trade or manufactures; having declined ever since the desolation caused by an earthquake in 1456. It reckons about fourteen thousand inhabitants, and no less than twenty parishes and convents, besides an ill-endowed cathedral.

\* Cluver places *Æquoututicus* here, without proof or probability.



The wine of Ariano is pale, like red champagne, which it also resembles in a certain tartness, exceedingly refreshing in hot weather.

The soil here lies upon a soft argillaceous stone. At a small distance to the east, is a bank consisting of layers of volcanical earths, interspersed with thick strata of oyster-shells. The partizans of a watry system will account for these ostracites by the subsiding and gradual depositions of the sea. Theologists will seize upon them as proofs and memorials of a general deluge. Others again, inclining to attribute more to the agency of fire, will insist upon these shells having been pumped out of the sea by the force of an eruption, in some very distant age, when the salt waters came much nearer the heart of Italy than they do at present. It is the opinion of many learned observers of the operations and progress of Nature, that most parts of Italy owe their origin to fire, and that at first, only the chain of calcareous mountains called the Apennine, towered above the level of the waters, which then covered all the lowlands. Others carry it still farther, and assert, that nothing south of the Alps existed ab origine above the surface of the waves, but that the first eruptions began between the gulphs of S. Eufemia and Squillace, from whence they spread gradually, till they had completed the production of all Italy. According to them, after the first dry point was fixed, hills rose upon hills, volcanoes shot up in clusters, and formed an invincible barrier, which for ever shut out all return of

the sea. Man descended from the Alps to cultivate the new exuberant soil; and the mountains being now far removed from the warm steams of the waters, to which they were indebted for their fertility, were abandoned to the wild beasts of the forest. The very name of Italy is by some said to imply a fiery origin, or an elevation above the ocean.

One paradoxical writer affirms, that the coins of Magna Græcia allude to these revolutions. In the bull of Sybaris he sees a smoking mountain, or a river choaked up by an eruption. The Hercules of Heraclea signifies a volcano; his arrows lightning: the aquatic plant, the stagnated watry state of the country before the efforts of fire divided and dried it; the shell represents the crater; the upright vase, a lake; the falling jug, an overturned country; and a vessel with the bottom upwards, the draining of it.

We procured a lodging at the Dominican convent below the town. Within these last hundred years, their house has been thrice rebuilt, having been as often thrown to the ground by earthquakes. The last and most destructive happened in 1732, fatal to all the country that lies along the eastern verge of the Apennine. In order to secure a retreat, in case of future accidents, which from their situation they have every reason to expect, these fathers have constructed a small building of wood, the parts of which being joined together with strong iron chains, are contrived so as to have a proper play, and by yielding to the oscillatory

tory motion of the earth, return easily to their equilibrium.

It is remarkable that Abruzzo, Puglia, and Calabria are repeatedly laid waste by earthquakes, while the shores of Terra di Lavoro, though exposed to the fury of Vesuvius, are seldom damaged by similar concussions. The issue that is given by that mountain to the subterraneous fires and vapours, no doubt preserves the neighbourhood from all violent shocks, and the want of such a vent-hole on the eastern coast, is the probable cause of the convulsions that so often overturn its cities. A passage in Strabo corroborates this opinion, by informing us that in his time Campania was subject to frequent and destructive earthquakes; and we know that, sixteen years before the first recorded explosion of Vesuvius, Pompeii, Stabia, and many neighbouring towns, were thrown down, and only in part rebuilt, when the great catastrophe of 79 buried them in lava and ashes. From the scanty chronicles of the lower ages, during which few eruptions are mentioned, we may gather that Naples and its district were continually torn to pieces by earthquakes; except in the first efforts of an eruption, they are now seldom felt there, since the mountain has enjoyed free and constant exhalation. Buffon thinks the vicinity of the sea so essential to the operations of a volcano, that without the convenience of water, a sufficient effervescence cannot be obtained in its bowels, and all its efforts to burst the earth, in order to give passage to the fiery contents,



tents, become of course feeble and ineffectual. According to this hypothesis, the retreat of the sea from the Apennine diminished by degrees the force of the volcanoes which once abounded in that chain of mountains; but, by their impotent struggles, they still are able to shake the foundations of the whole country, and extend their ravages to a much greater distance than Vesuvius ever does in the most terrible paroxysms of its rage.

From Ariano we descended very rapidly towards the Adriatic, having hitherto been continually mounting from the level of the Mediterranean sea; and being assured that many robbers were lurking in the forests, we took an escort of cavalry, not to appear obstinate and foolhardy, though we gave very little credit to the report. These detachments of troopers are stationed by order of government at proper distances, to take travellers and merchants under their safeguard.

After passing over a very high champaign country, the road falls into a deep valley of considerable length; at the end of which the Puglian plains and the Adriatic sea appear like horizontal stripes of different shades.

Two small towns, Savignano and Greci, stand loftily on each side of the defile. The latter is a colony of about one thousand four hundred Albanese, who still speak a mixed jargon between Italian and the Epirote language. Till 1731 they followed the Greek rite; but then, by royal mandate, exchanged it for the Latin liturgy.

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Our

Our ride now became more agreeable, as we travelled down the pleasant banks of the Cervaro. Handsome woods clothe the mountains on each side from the summit to the water edge. Our smell was refreshed by the fragrance rising from thickets of flowering shrubs; and our sight delighted with the gay bloom of the arbor fuda, which grows abundantly in this wilderness. There is but little timber of any value, most of the oaks having been lopped for fuel. The inn at the bridge of Bovino is placed in a cheerful situation; but from the lowness of its position, and the proximity of the woods and water, in the summer season is subject to malignant fevers.

The city of Bovino stands very high on the south side of the river. This is a duchy belonging to the Guevaras, one of the Spanish families that followed the fortunes of Alphonfus the Magnanimous\*.

We continued our journey on the north side of the river, through an immense woody plain covered with low stunted oaks and very coarse benty grass. On the edge of this forest the King has a hunting seat, to which the public is indebted for the noble road his father made from Naples hither. It is a pity the present sovereign does not honour Bovino now and then with a visit, as repairs begin to be very necessary for the roads. Their covering is quite worn

\* There are still three other Aragonian houses in Naples, viz. Cavaniglia, Cardines, and Avalos, which, with Guevara, walk in solemn procession through Naples, on the octave day of Corpus Domini, and visit four altars magnificently decked out at their joint expence.

out, and cut through to the very foundations. Their destruction is hastened by the waste waters of the fountains erected by King Charles. The conduits are broken or choaked up, and the water runs down the highway, where it forms quickfands and dangerous floughs.

We crossed an ancient Roman road, still discernible among the bushes\*.

A few miles to the left, is Troja, built on an eminence out of the ruins of *Æcas*, a city destroyed by Constantine the Second. Bagianus, Catapan or Viceroy of the province, is said to have founded Troja in the eleventh century, by order of the emperors Basil and Constantine, to serve as a bulwark against the inroads of the Norman adventurers, and to have given it that name in commemoration of the famous city which by its fall has immortalized the heroes of Greece. It was long accounted a key to the Apennines, and as such was exposed to many assaults and sieges. The very year of its foundation it was stormed by the Germans, and King Roger also took it very soon after. Scarce a rebellion happened under the Normans, but this place was a principal sufferer. It is memorable for the overthrow of John of Anjou by Ferdinand the First. Under Robert and Joan the

\* It was the *Æquututican*, which came through Trajan's arch at Benevento, where it branched off from the Via Appia, passed by the Ponte Valentino, under Forum Novum now La Padula, by *Æquututicus* now Buon Albergo, *Æcas* now Troja, and crossing the present road from Foggia, ran to Herdonia now Ordona, and at Canosa joined the way that came from Grötta Minarda and Ascoli.



First, I find Troja was a fief of the Capuas; in the reign of Charles the Third, Perotto of Ivrea had it; Cavanilla possessed it after the accession of the line of Aragon; and now it is in the house of Avalos.

## SECTION XVII.

WE soon after left the woods, climbed up the last ridge, and then, through a waste covered with wild pear-trees, descended into the extensive plains of Puglia, which afford a prospect curious from its novelty, but disagreeable after the survey of a few minutes.

In the centre stands Foggia, without walls, citadel, or gates, though a principal town of the province of Capitanata. It is neatly built of white stone, and has two or three good streets. The custom-house is a handsome edifice.

This town, with many others on the coast, was ruined in 1732 by an earthquake, which has occasioned its being rebuilt with greater neatness and regularity. In summer the air is unwholesome, and all persons, that can afford to remove, desert it during the hot months. In winter it is computed to contain about twenty thousand inhabitants, including strangers. All the large streets and open squares are undermined with vaults, where corn is buried, and preserved sound from year to year. The orifices are closed

up

up with boards and earth ; the sides within faced with stone\*.

I find little mention made of this place before the coming in of the Swabians. Frederick built a fortress here, to overawe the Puglians, and took great delight in this residence. His sixth wife, Isabella, daughter of John, King of England, died here in 1241. Here, according to most historians, was murdered, by order of his brother Conrad, Henry, son of Frederick and Isabella, to whom that emperor had bequeathed the kingdom of Jerusalem, with large possessions in Europe, reannexed in 1253, by this abominable fratricide, to the crown of Sicily. In 1254, Foggia was sacked by the soldiers of the regent Manfred, and hither fled the Pope's legate and army before the victorious troops of that prince. The papal general demolished the imperial palace, and employed the materials to strengthen his entrenchments ; but was nevertheless soon obliged to capitulate. In 1268, the Angevines pillaged this town, with every circumstance of cruelty and licentiousness. Here Philip, the second son of Charles the First, was married with great solemnity to the Princess of Morea, and here also he soon after died. A general of the King of Hungary abandoned it in 1350 to his soldiers, who found in it immense booty, as Foggia was at that time the most opulent place in Puglia. Its consequence, both in ancient and modern times, has been, and still is, owing to its being a

\* From these holes, or *fosse*, comes the word Foggia.

staple for corn and wool, and to a tax or register office, known by the name of the *Tribunale della dogana della mena delle pecore di Puglia*; i. e. "The custom-house for the toll of the sheep that pass to and from Puglia." It is managed by a governor, auditor, and two advocates, and has the distribution of a fixed assessment upon all sheep that descend in autumn from the mountains of Abruzzo, into the warm plains of Puglia, where they year, and in May return to the high country.

We have the authority of Varro and others for ascribing the invention of this duty to the ancient Romans; who, on subduing the Italian states, were wont to allot the improved lands to colonies of their own citizens, while they left the original possessors the use of the wastes and less cultivated tracts, under the obligation of paying a tenth of the produce of the corn-lands, and a fifth of all other fruits. Breeders of cattle and sheep were to compound with the censors, who every year hung out a table of the conditions on which they proposed to lease out the public pastures. A list of the sheep intended to be sent to graze thereon was given in, and a proper allotment of land assigned, according to their number and the goodness of the pasturage: this was called *Scriptuarius Ager*. In later times, the Emperors appropriated all such common lands to themselves, and caused them to be considered as their peculiar royalties. Varro says, sheep were driven out of Apulia into Samnium before summer, and on their passage were obliged to be declared (*profiteri*)



(profiteri) to the publican. We gather from Odofredus of Beneventum, a writer of the thirteenth century, that this duty was not lost in that age; but in the two following ones the passage seems to have become quite free, and the pastures of Puglia open without fee to all shepherds that chose to bring down their flocks.

Alphonfus the First, foreseeing an immense accession to the royal revenue from the proper management of such customs, but at the same time being desirous of avoiding every shadow of coercive legislation and tyranny in the re-establishment of them, deputed Francis de Montubler to treat with the graziers and sheep-masters of Abruzzo, and the land-owners of Puglia. This intelligent minister disposed the minds of those he had to deal with so favourably, that he brought them to terms of great advantage to the crown, and present profit to themselves. The King engaged to supply the breeders with a new fine race of sheep imported from Spain.\*; to provide winter pasturage for seven months, and a convenient road, called the Tratturo, sixty paces wide, for the passing and repassing of the flocks; freedom from all royal tolls, and other dues;

\* It is affirmed by the annotator on *Deliciæ Tarentinæ*, that they were propagated from some sheep sent as a present by Edward of England to a John of Aragon. Rapin says, Edward the Fourth was blamed by the nation for giving away sheep, and thereby improving the Spanish wool, to the detriment of the English sale; but Edward the Fourth reigned after the death of Alphonfus, and therefore it is likely Edward the Third was the donor, as he was a cotemporary and in league with John the First of Aragon.

guards and protection from all assaults and disturbances, and materials for their huts and folds at reasonable prices, and on credit. He bound himself to compel all barons and bodies corporate, on the route, to furnish herbage for the sheep during twenty-four hours, and to compound moderately for all demands at bars and bridges.

The Crown not being possessed of a sufficient range of pasture for the great flocks expected down from Abruzzo, Montubler purchased of the Puglian proprietors as much more as was deemed adequate to the purpose. The purchase, or rather perpetual lease, was only made for seven months in the year, during which time no other sheep or cattle are allowed to feed in the plains; and in case of failure of herbage, the Crown reserved a power of compelling all subjects to let a lease of such grass lands as might be wanted to make up the deficiency, and to abide by the evaluation of its officers. The ancient owners still continue absolute masters of the soil, and may dispose of the summer herbage as they think proper, and at all times turn swine into the woodlands. For all these leased grounds, the King agreed to pay for ever thirteen thousand nine hundred and twelve ducats a year, to stand all risks and losses, and to defray all expences attending the collection, which are computed at about fourteen thousand four hundred and thirty-four ducats more. These royal pastures are bounded by stones, and known by the name of *Tavoliere*. They extend sixty miles in length, and thirty



in breadth, divided into twenty-three old lots, and twenty new ones, capable in all of feeding one million two hundred thousand sheep.

In return for all these attentions on the part of the King, the shepherds of Abruzzo bound themselves for ever, to descend from the mountains every year, to submit to the jurisdiction, parcelling powers, and penalties pronounced by the Dogana, and to pay, for every five score of sheep, the sum of eight Venetian crowns, equal to eight Neapolitan ducats and four taris. The Crown has since, by a stretch of prerogative, raised the duty twice: once, in 1556, to twelve crowns; and a second time, in 1709, to thirteen ducats and twenty grana. The allotment for each flock was to be declared in November, and no agreement to be for a longer term than one season. The shepherds were to provide themselves with every necessary, and not to have a power of selling any wool, lambs, cheese, or other commodity produced during their winter residence, in any fair but that of Foggia, where they were to be deposited in the royal magazines, and not touched without a permit. By way of compensation, no wools in the kingdom were to be suffered to be brought to market, till those at Foggia were vended, the duties paid, and the tribunal satisfied for all its demands.

This Dogana is one of the richest mines of wealth belonging to the crown of Naples, and with proper economy is capable of a great annual increase, provided no epidemical



cal distemper attack the flocks. Its advantages were so well known in 1500, when Lewis and Ferdinand made a partition of the kingdom, that it was agreed to halve the profits between them; and when the French attempted to evade this contract, by stopping the sheep and cattle at San Severo, before they reached the usual place of en-registering, the Spaniards thought themselves justifiable in attacking the French tax-gatherers, and dispersing both collectors and flocks. Soon after its institution, the Dogana cleared seventy-two thousand ducats. In 1536, one million forty eight thousand three hundred and ninety-six sheep, and fourteen thousand four hundred cattle, produced seventy-two thousand two hundred and fourteen ducats. In 1680, the profits were one hundred fifty-five thousand eight hundred and sixty-three. In 1700, they amounted to two hundred seventy-two thousand and seventy-seven. In 1730, the tax produced two hundred thirty-five thousand and seventy-two. At present, the net profit arising to the King from the letting of the pastures is about forty thousand ducats; but, with the duties upon wool, tallow, &c. amounts to four hundred thousand. The produce did not exceed two hundred and eighty-one thousand before the late Governor, the Marquis Granito, was sent thither; and all the increase is owing to his talents in financiering. Competent judges have assured me, it would be no difficult matter to raise it to half a million of ducats.

The

The commodities of Foggia are corn, cheese, and wool. The wool is bought up by the French and other foreigners; and therefore but a small advantage accrues to the province in comparison with what it might reap, were the materials employed at home. With judicious management, this country might carry on a very extensive trade, and attain the prosperity intended for it by the all-bounteous views of Providence, whose partiality has been counteracted, as much as possible, by the blunders and tyranny of man.

In the famine of 1764, instead of encouraging the farmers of Puglia to throw a seasonable supply of corn into Naples, by the offer of a good price and speedy payment, the ministry sent soldiers into the province to take it by force, and drive the owners before them, like beasts of burden, laden with their own property. Such as were unwilling to part with it by compulsion, and upon such hard terms, carried their corn up into the hills and buried it. If any were detected in these practices, they were hanged.

On account of the great variety of field sports to which the adjacent hills and plains are peculiarly adapted, this town was a favourite habitation of the German princes; but still more so of their enemy Charles the First, who erected here a sumptuous palace, with gardens and orchards, in which he was so curious, as to keep a list of all the fruit-trees planted in them. Here he died on the seventh of January, 1285, as he was on his way to Brindisi, to hasten an armament against Sicily. Charles was long accounted,

with reason, the most fortunate of men; but the last years of his life were darkened with such a cloud of disasters, as rank him among the most miserable. They broke his proud heart, and caused him to exclaim, in the bitterness of his soul, “ ☉ God! thou who hast carried me up to the  
“ pinnacle of glory and prosperity, withdraw not thy hand!  
“ or if I am to be precipitated, let not my fall be so rapid  
“ and headlong, but humble me by degrees!”—A fever put an end to his anguish, but not without some suspicions of his having hastened his death by laying violent hands upon himself. This sovereign was endowed with great qualities, overbalanced by most crying vices. In his person he was tall and robust; a dark complexion, and prominent nose, gave his countenance an air of ferocious majesty. Undaunted courage, profound knowledge of the military art, inviolable attachment to his word, unbounded generosity, watchfulness and patience under fatigue, form the outlines of his portrait on the fair side, and justify the title given him by his rival Don Pedro, King of Aragon, of the *Mejor caballero del mundo*. But if we turn the canvas, we shall behold a man sour and gloomy in his disposition, unbridled in his passions, unjust in his pursuits, devoured by ambition, rapacious in the acquisition of wealth, vindictive, bloody, and steeled against every sentiment of humanity: in one word, a great bad prince, mean enough to treat with indignity the mangled remains of the gallant Manfred, and juridically to murder the innocent Conradine, whose  
tender



tender years and amiable faculties would have excited pity in almost any other breast.

We were for some time at a loss for lodgings, as all the inns, which are but sorry places of accommodation, were occupied by people drawn hither by the approaching Fair. On this occasion Foggia becomes a place of great resort and gaiety, even for the Neapolitan nobility. They come hither to exercise their dexterity at play upon the purses of the less expert country gentlemen, whom they commonly send home stripped of the savings of a whole year. This passion for gaming rages with wonderful violence over all the kingdom, and is a plague that never dies, though it may intermit, nor is there any lazaretto to check its progress.

## SECTION XVIII.

OUR next stage was to Manfredonia, twenty miles through a flat pasture covered with asphodels, thistles, wild artichokes, and fennel-giant; of the last are made bee-hives and chair-bottoms; the leaves are given to asses, by way of a strengthener, and the tender buds are boiled and eaten as a delicacy by the peasants. This plant covers half the plain, and rises to such a height, that there is an instance, in one of the wars between France and Spain, of the Spaniards having marched through it undiscovered close

up to the French entrenchments. The artichokes are given to buffaloes.

A few miles from Foggia are some faint traces of walls said to be those of Arpi or Argyripæ, once the capital of a kingdom founded by Diomed after the siege of Troy. The story of this hero was universally admitted by the ancients, and adopted by Virgil :

Ille urbem Argyripam, patriæ cognomine gentis,  
Victor Gargani condebat Japygis arvis \*.      ÆNEID. lib. II.

The coins † of this city, which are of Greek type, are not very rare : they usually bear the impression of a wild boar, perhaps an allusion to that of Calydon, the place their founder came from.

On the left lies Aprocina ‡, a poor ruinous hamlet, that owes its origin to a frolic of the Emperor Frederick. He was passionately fond of the chace, and happened one day to kill a wild boar of extraordinary magnitude upon this very spot. He had it immediately cut up and dressed, and

\* “ Being victorious, he built, in the fields of the Japygian Garganus, a city, and called it Argyripa, from the name of his native country.”

† Nummi Arpanorum.

AUR. 1. Caput Cereris. spica. ΑΡΙΑΝΩΝ.=Equus. stella et luna, ΔΑΕΟΥ.

ARG. 1. Cap. galeat.=Tres spicæ. ΑΡΙΑ.

2. Cap. Cereris diota.=Equus. galea. stella ΔΑΕΟΥ.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Jovis. fulmen. ΔΑΕΟΥ =Aper currens. hasta ΑΡΙΑΝΩΝ.

2. Equus ΑΡΙΑΝΟΥ.=Taurus ΠΟΥΛΑΙ.

3. Equus. ΑΡΙΑΝΩΝ.=Taurus ΔΑΕΟΥ.

4. Spica.=Aper.

‡ Zannoni marks this place among the mountains of Garganus ; but the Chronicle says expressly it was in the plain,

fat

sat down with his company to sup upon the noble game. The flow of spirits, inspired by the success of the day, and heightened by wine and good fellowship, made him wish to perpetuate the remembrance of his convivial pleasures by erecting a palace here, which he called Apricena, from the two Latin words that signify a wild boar, and supper. Inhabitants gathered round the imperial residence, and formed a small town, which flourished and fell with the fortunes of the house of Swabia.

On our approach to the sea, we came to a more barren soil, a mere heap of pebbles, except some small patches, where labour and perseverance have forced vines and corn to grow. A mile from the shore stood the city of Sipontum, of which, except a part of its Gothic cathedral, scarce one stone remains upon another.

Diomed is supposed by Strabo to have been the founder of this place, called by the Greeks ΣΗΠΙΟΥΝΤΟΣ, from the great quantity of cuttle fish that are cast up on the coast. In the early ages of Christian hierarchy, a bishop was fixed in this church; but, under the Lombards, his see was united to that of Beneventum. Being again separated, Sipontum became an archiepiscopal diocese in 1094, about which time it was so ill treated by the Barbarians, that it never recovered its splendour, but sunk into such misery, that in 1260, it was a mere desert, from the want of inhabitants, the decay of commerce, and the insalubrity of the air. Manfred having taken these circumstances into consideration,



deration, began in 1261 to build a new city on the seashore, to which he removed the few remaining Sipontines. His colony was named Manfredonia, and people were encouraged to settle in it by many essential privileges and exemptions. In order to found it under the most favourable auspices, he called together all the famous professors of astrology (a science in which both he and his father placed great confidence), and caused them to calculate the happiest hour and minute for laying the first stone. He himself drew the plans, traced the walls and streets, superintended the works, and by his presence and largesses animated the workmen to finish them in a very short space of time. The port was secured from storms by a pier, the ramparts were built of the most solid materials, and in the great tower was placed a bell of so considerable a volume as to be heard over all the plain of Capitanata, in order to alarm the country in case of an invasion. Charles of Anjou afterwards removed the bell to Bari, and offered it at the shrine of Saint Nicholas, as a thanksgiving for the recovery of one of his children.

In spite of all the precautions taken by Manfred to secure a brilliant destiny to his new city, neither his pains, nor the horoscopes of his wizards, have been able to render it opulent or powerful. At present, it scarce musters six thousand inhabitants, though most of the corn exported from the province is shipped off here, and a direct trade carried on with Venice and Greece, for which reason there is a lazaretto

retto established; but from some late instances we may gather, that if the kingdom of Naples has for many years past remained free from the plague, it is more owing to good luck, and the very trifling communication with Turkey, than to the vigilance or incorruptibility of the officers of this port.

In 1620, the Turks landed and pillaged Manfredonia.

All sorts of vegetables abound here, for flavour and succulency infinitely superior to those raised by continual waterings in the cineritious soil of Naples; lettuce in particular is delicious; fish plentiful and cheap; the rocky shore covered with shell-fish, alga, and balls called *pila marina*, which are nothing more than a conglomeration of the finer fibres of submarine roots detached from their plants, and rolled up by the undulating motion of the water; of these fibres a delicate paper has been obtained by an experimental philosopher, whose studies in natural history are always directed by patriotic views, and the hope of striking out discoveries of public utility.

April the nineteenth, we rode along the shore to the north-east, for three miles, through a well cultivated tract of good land, till we arrived at the foot of Mount Garganus. This ridge of mountains, almost entirely composed of breccia, forms a very large promontory advancing into the Adriatic sea, and separated from the Apennines on the west by the plains of Lucera and San Severo. Most geographers make it a continuation of the great chain of mountains that runs

down the middle of Italy, but in this point, as well as in many others concerning these provinces, I have had opportunities of discovering errors in the best maps; nor am I acquainted with one that can be implicitly relied upon with regard to the Neapolitan dominions. Few persons travel to make observations on the spot, and therefore most of them are under the necessity of adopting the mistakes of their predecessors, as they have no means of coming at better information. The four-sheet map of the kingdom of Naples, drawn at Paris by Zannoni, under the direction of the counsellor Abbate Galiani, is certainly the best and most ample of any yet published; but as it was put together from memory, combination of different observations, and old maps, it is not surprising that it should not be exempt from errors\*. It is to be lamented, that with such a numerous body of engineers in times of profound peace, the Neapolitan ministry should not employ a few of them in the useful task of making topographical and marine charts of their own country and coasts. The public spirit of a Dominican friar †, who, at his own risk and expence, has caused the whole extent of coast from Reggio to Naples to be drawn and engraved, should methinks excite the emulation, and pique the pride, of those that preside over the affairs of this realm.

\* Zannoni has lately been prevailed upon to come to Naples, and is actually employed in surveying the kingdom. We may, therefore, expect a better map of the Two Sicilies.

† F. Antonio Minafi.



For more than an hour we climbed up a very rugged rocky path, through thickets of pine, juniper, cistus, lentiscus, and other strong scented plants; at length we reached the top of the mountain that overhangs the bay of Manfredonia, and arrived at the dirty ill built city of Sant' Angiolo, which contains about six thousand savage-looking inhabitants. We were accommodated with lodgings at the Carmelite friars, who very politely procured us refreshments in great abundance; we found the flavour of their mutton exquisite, and were told that meat of all kinds was equally delicate in this district.

After dinner one of the friars conducted us to the sanctuary, which is a cavern in the face of the rock; a grove of aged trees overshades the approach, and on their boughs are flung flat stones drilled through, and hung up by the pilgrims, either as proofs of their having fulfilled their vow, or in consequence of some whim of devotion, as the Pagans used to suspend little masks or images on the branches of trees in honour of Bacchus.

*Oscilla ex alta suspendunt mollia pinu* \*.

VIRG. Geor. 2.

Through a gothic porch we were led down a flight of fifty-five steps of coarse-grained marble, on which votaries have traced the outlines of their hands and feet. At the bottom, we passed into a damp gloomy grotto, the chapel of the Archangel Michael: his statue is of the common soft stone

\* "They hang waxen masks upon the lofty pine."

of the country, and, with all the rest of the decorations, below criticism.

The history of this church is as follows: In the days of Pope Gelasius the First, about the year 491, St. Michael is said to have appeared to one Laurence in the caverns of Mount Garganus, and to have suggested to him measures for obtaining a complete victory over the enemies of his country, and delivering Sipontum, then beleaguered by the barbarians. The vision made a great noise in the Christian world, and soon gained such credit with the pious part of it, that altars and churches were erected in numberless places in honour of this Generalissimo of the celestial host; but none was resorted to with so much fervour, none so enriched with the presents of the faithful, as the chapel consecrated upon the identical spot where the spirit was said to have stood. The riches lavished upon it by the Greeks allured the Lombards, who took the town and stripped it of all its treasures. In 1460, Ferdinand the First stormed this place (the inhabitants of which had joined his adversaries), and plundered the church of an incredible store of wealth belonging to the sanctuary, or to the rebels of the neighbourhood, who had deposited their valuable property here, as in a place of inviolable security. The King carried it off, and coined the silver into crown pieces of St. Angelo, which, on one side, bore his image, and on the reverse, that of St. Michael, with the legend *JUSTA TUENDA*. Pontanus, his secretary, who must be allowed to be good authority, though,

though, from the known character of the Prince, the fact is rather improbable, assures us, that at the peace every thing was restored to the chapel exactly in the same form and to the same amount. Since that epocha, this sanctuary has been little talked of beyond the circuit of a few miles, and only pilgrims of a mean rank now frequent Monte St. Angelo; for great and munificent votaries have for these two last centuries flocked to Loretto.

In the first partition of the Norman conquests, Garganus and Sipontum were assigned to Ranulph of Aversa. Joan of England, wife to William the Good, had this manor settled on her as a jointure, and afterwards it formed part of Manfred's appanage.

It was bestowed upon the famous Scanderbeg by Ferdinand the First, and at present belongs to Grimaldi Prince of Gerace.

Next morning we took a pleasant ride into the heart of the mountains, through shady dells and noble woods, which brought to our minds the venerable groves that in ancient times bent with the loud winds sweeping along the rugged sides of Garganus. There is still a respectable forest of evergreen and common oak, pitch pine, horn beam, chestnut and manna-ash; still

\* —————Aquilonibus  
Querceta Gargani laborant,  
Et foliis viduantur orni.—

HOR.

\* The oak woods of Garganus groan beneath the northern blasts, and the ashes are stripped of their leaves by the tempest.

The



The sheltered vallies are industriously cultivated, and seem to be blest with an excellent soil, and luxuriant vegetation; the grass is short and fine.

After a delightful wandering excursion, we sat down to dinner on the moss by the side of a clear brook that tumbles down the rocks, and loses itself among the bushes †. Our repast finished, we returned to St. Angelo, and next morning crossed the plain to Lucera, which stands on a knoll detached from the Apennine, commanding an almost boundless view of sea and land.

† Not many miles north of this place is Ischitella, a town, that in 1676, gave birth to Peter Giannone, the most celebrated writer of Neapolitan history. He was an advocate at Naples, and intended his work rather as a dissertation on the laws and civil transactions of his country, than as a chronicle of its wars and revolutions; but even, according to this plan, it is imperfect in the execution, for he passes over many capital points in silence, or at best, touches upon them in a very superficial manner: he too frequently transcribes the words of other authors, and, from a want of recourse to original documents, decides without warrantable authority. His reputation arose from the vigorous attack he made upon ecclesiastical power; and he is supposed to have been the first that freed the Neapolitans from the slavish terrors, with which the menaces of Rome had for so many ages impressed their minds. The success of his book roused the Pope's partisans, who soon contrived to render him an object of execration, and an exile. He dragged on a life of poverty and misery for many years, and was at last shamefully decoyed into Savoy, and thrown into prison by the King of Sardinia, who having then in view a treaty with the court of Rome, hoped to carry his point by this unjust treatment of a man, over whom he could not possibly pretend any dominion. Giannone died in 1748, after thirteen years captivity.

## SECTION XIX.

THE origin and etymology of Lucera are equally matters of conjecture; its antiquity and former importance are proved by the testimony of many historians. It was a city of the Daunians, and an ally of the Romans, who esteemed it a place of the utmost consequence to their views of aggrandisement. In the year of Rome 433, the consuls T. Veturius Calvinus and Spurius Posthumius, were marching from Campania to its relief, when they were circumvented and made prisoners by the Samnites in the defile of Caudium. The epithet *noble*\*, bestowed upon it by Horace, can allude only to its antiquity, for Strabo says it was much decayed in the Augustan age; the only remnant of Roman building is a tower in the centre of the castle. The coins of Luceria are in most cabinets †.

In 663, Lucera was sacked by Constantine the Second, and lay in ruins till Frederick the Second conceived an affection

\* Telanæ prope nobilem  
Tonsæ Luceriam.

† Nummi Lucerinorum.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Herculis imb. pelle leoninâ tectum = Clava, pharetra et arcus LOVCERI.

2. Cap. Pallad. gal. = Rota octo radiorum LOVCERI.

3. Cap. imb. laur. 2 glob. = Cap. bov. LOVCERI.

4. Cap. barb. laur. 3 glob. = Delphin LOVCERI.

5. Cap. mul. velat. laur. 2 glob. = Concha LOVCERI.

for it, and erected on one of its hills a spacious Gothic fortress still existing. He soon after transported hither the Saracens of Sicily to remove them from the dangerous neighbourhood of Africa, and break their pernicious connexions with that continent. Under the protection of the Swabian kings, their numbers increased to sixty thousand; their insolence rose in proportion to their numbers, and from Lucera, as from a den, they rushed forth into the plains, where they exercised all sorts of violence upon the inhabitants; the histories of those times abound with traits of their cruelty, perhaps a little exaggerated on account of the inviolable attachment which these Mussulmen professed and maintained towards the house of Swabia, a most odious and unpardonable crime in the eyes of the succeeding princes and their partisans. Spinelli \* tells us of one Phocax, a Saracen captain, who being in love with the wife of Simon Rocca of Trani, broke into his house by night, turned him out of

\* Matthew Spinelli, a gentleman of Giovenazzo, wrote a journal of events that happened, in his time, under the three last Swabian and the first Angevine princes. We have his work both in Latin and Italian: Muratori and others try to persuade us, that the latter is the original; but the language is so widely different from the modern Puglian dialect, and from any idiom we can suppose in use there five hundred years ago, that it is quite absurd to think Spinelli wrote it as the language now stands: either the Latin is the original, or the present Italian is a translation of the ancient Puglian copy. There are some anachronisms and interpolations in this very curious diary; but the former arise from the old Puglian method of beginning the year in September, and the blame of the latter may be laid upon the copists, who had a political interest in falsifying the text. This is a short and valuable work, relating with simplicity the transactions of the times, and throwing great light upon the characters of many principal personages of that busy period.



his bed, and took possession of his place : a complaint of this outrage was lodged before the Emperor; but he treated it lightly, and answered, that where there was compulsion, there could be no dishonour. If the Infidels were licentious, we learn from the same chronicles, that the Christians were not behind hand in revenge.

After the battle of Benevento, where the Saracens signalized their fidelity, and acquitted themselves with honour of the last duty to their benefactor Manfred, they were obliged to submit to the conqueror. In 1300, Charles the Second, aware of the danger of suffering them to remain any longer in the heart of his kingdom, and zealous to re-establish the worship of Christ in a place, where it had been for so many years treated with indignity, issued an edict, by which all Mahometans, resident in his dominions, were to embrace the Christian religion, or be liable to be killed with impunity wherever they should be found. Most of them fled beyond sea, and Charles restored Lucera to the Christians, built a magnificent cathedral, caused a bishop and chapter, with ample revenues, to be appointed, and endeavoured to obliterate even the memory of all past abominations by abolishing the ancient name, in lieu of which he substituted that of Santa Maria; but it happened here, as at Manfredonia, which his father had new named, the old denomination prevailed.

In 1590, Mark Sciarra, a captain of banditti, surprized and plundered this city. The bishop, who had taken re-

Y

fuge

fuge in the steeple of his cathedral, was shot at the window, as he was peeping out to watch the motions of the robbers.

The tribunal of the President of Capitanata and Molise, and an annual fair in November, are at present the chief support of the town.

From the walls, Ferentino or Castelfiorentino was pointed out to us about six miles to the north. It is now a ruinous hamlet, but was once an episcopal city, and remarkable for being the place where the Emperor Frederick the Second breathed his last. To form a just character of this monarch, it is necessary to steer a middle course between the invectives of ecclesiastical writers, and the eulogies of the Ghibellines. It is from a comparative review of the great events of his reign that I shall sketch the outlines of his portrait. He was a warrior of consummate prudence and undoubted courage, by the help of which he weathered the storms of half a century. In prosperity he was not elated; adversity did not depress his spirit; born at an unhappy period, when the popes were straining every sinew to attain temporal as well as spiritual despotism, when the empire was exerting its last efforts to check the growing power of Rome, and preserve a footing in Italy, Frederick was early involved in disputes with the Guelph faction, which continued with very little intermission during his whole life. In the course of these disturbances, all sentiments of respect for the triple crown, which he always found on the head of his most inveterate enemy, vanished from his breast, and, when once they disappeared,

appeared, it was natural he should confound the principles of the religion with those of its chief; from hating the pontiff he came to despise the faith; sentiments enforced by Frederick's style of life and study: he was the most learned sovereign of the age, a poet, and author of some treatises on veterinarian subjects, the most fashionable a prince could employ his talents upon; he founded academies, protected men of letters, instituted good laws, and proved himself a strict observer of justice; but cruel and vindictive in the infliction of its penalties. He was a dupe to judiciary astrology, abandoned to sensual pleasures, and, notwithstanding all Giannone says in his defence, a latitudinarian in his religious opinions. He is said to have observed with a sneer, as he marched through the Holy Land, that if the God of the Hebrews had ever seen the Terra di Lavoro, he would not have set such a value upon his land of promise.

From Lucera, we continued our journey southward to La Cerignuola, through an immense flat watered by the Carapelle and the Cervaro; the first of these torrents is the Daunus, from which the whole country derived its ancient name. On the north-east our horizon was bounded by the sea, on the north by Monte St. Angelo; the Apennine runs along the western side as far as the eye can discover; between it and the sea, the insulated ridge of Canosa crosses the plain, and closes the view to the south. As the weather was dry, we found the road tolerably good; but in winter it must be impassable. From the warmth I felt, I conceived an idea



of the excessive power of the summer sun in these low lands, where neither shade nor shelter is to be found for many miles; there is then no breathing in them through intenseness of heat and want of ventilation. Horace, who was well acquainted with all the qualities of his native country, has more than once made mention of parched-up Puglia\*, and in modern language, the following adage is not less expressive of the idea the Pugliese themselves have of its insufferable summer weather:

Le pene si soffriscon dell' inferno  
L'estate in Puglia, all' Aquila l'inverno †.

We met crowds of people returning from the feast or wake of l'Incoronata: this is an image of the Madonna found in a tree, and held in great veneration. They were all gay and frolicsome, especially the women, who seemed mightily pleased with the day's diversion. At the place where this festival is kept, was formerly a hunting seat of Manfred. In 1265, being desirous of strengthening his doubtful title by popularity, he summoned a general court of his barons at Foggia, and made a grand hunting match in the forest of Incoronata, to which above one thousand

\* *Æstuosæ grata Calabriæ armenta* ———  
*Pauper aquæ Daunus* ———  
*Perusta folibus uxor Appuli* ———  
*Siticulosæ Apuliæ* ———

† “ The pains of hell are felt in Puglia during the summer, and at Aquila “ during the winter.”

five hundred persons of consideration were invited. After the chase, the spoil was divided among the company, and the hunting of that day remained long memorable in Puglia for the concourse of nobility; the great quantity of game taken, and the magnificence of the King, who suffered none to depart without some token of his generosity. Alphonsus the First inclosed eighteen miles of this country with toils, and took so many stags, that, besides what was carried away by the hunters, he sent four hundred head to be salted for the use of the garrisons of Trani and Barletta. In later times, Puglia continued to be remarkable for abundance of deer. We have the authority of Pontanus, an eye-witness, for a very extraordinary proof of their numbers; he informs us, that his master King Ferdinand having marched out of Barletta before daybreak with a view of surprizing his enemies, was stopped by the appearance of a cloud of dust rising in the plain from a great crowd in motion; on the report of the advanced parties, he thought it prudent to return to his camp, lest his retreat should be cut off by that body of troops which seemed to move with prodigious rapidity. As soon as the sun rose, this formidable host was discovered to be a herd of stags. The same author tells us, that some years before, Sforza, the most experienced general of the age, had been deceived in like manner, so as to draw up his forces to receive the charge. At present, game is not wanting, though kings now seldom drive it across these plains; or by their residence on the royal chace, contribute

contribute to its preservation and increase. It appears rather paradoxical, that however eager, expert, and indefatigable, a prince may be in the chase, yet wild beasts, and game of all sorts, shall flock round him and multiply near his palace; they seem fascinated and hurried by an irresistible instinct towards this royal butchery. But the concourse is easily accounted for, when we consider the impunity with which they ravage the hopes of the husbandman, and the undisturbed security they enjoy under the protection of the forest laws during their seasons of pairing, producing, and nursing their progeny.

The Puglian sportsmen run down hares with greyhounds, and pursue the wild boar with one large lurcher, and two or three mastiffs; the hunters ride with a lance and a pair of pistols.

La Cerignola is a town of twelve thousand inhabitants, situated on a rising ground without tree or bush near it. About forty years ago an earthquake almost destroyed it, and it is not yet thoroughly rebuilt; the streets are crooked and dirty, the houses all low, as the owners dare not raise them high for fear of another shock. The eighty-first Columna Milliaria, inscribed with the name of Trajan, was the only fragment of antiquity I found here. The commodities of the place are sheep, horses, and corn; the bread is black and gritty, but well tasted. In 1363, James Arcucci, great Chamberlain of Naples, was lord of this manor: it afterwards belonged to the Palagoni, from whom Ladis-



laus took it to give to the Caraccioli; Pignatelli, Count of Egmont †, resident in France, is the actual possessor, and farms it out at fifteen thousand ducats a-year (£. 2,810). In 1503, the great captain defeated the French near this town, in an attack they made upon his camp. Their general, Lewis of Armagnac, Duke of Nemours, was killed in the engagement.

## SECTION XX.

*April* } WE set out early to examine the fields of  
*22d.* } Cannæ, famous for the victory obtained over the Romans by Hannibal in the 536th year of Rome. The result of our observations shall be given in as few words as the desire of being intelligible will admit of.

From Cerignola to the bridge of Canosa are reckoned six miles of open country, arable and pasture. The Ofanto (anciently the Aufidus) flows under this bridge; its course is serpentine, and various in its direction, sometimes running due east, at others, rather to the south, but in general inclining to the north-east. There was but little water in it, and that whitish and muddy; but from the wideness of its

† The Pignatellis give three pots or pignatte for their arms, and pretend they bear this coat in memory of one of their ancestors having entered Constantinople sword in hand, penetrated into the market-place, and brought off the three pots as a trophy. They are rich and puissant Barons, Princes of Belmonte, Strongoli, and Dukes of Monteleone, &c. Of this family was Pope Innocent the Twelfth, elected in 1691.

bed, the sand banks, and the buttresses erected to break the force of the stream, it is plain that it still answers Horace's epithets of fierce, roaring, and violent\*. It flows from two sources that embrace the conical Mount Voltore, and join at the foot, being the only river †, as Polybius observes, that rising on the western side of the Apennines, empties itself into the Adriatic. This double origin is expressed by the appellation Tauriformis‡, having two branches or horns at the head ||.

Except a few scattered poplars, I saw no wood near its banks; the Roman road from Benevento, through Ascoli, appears here raised above the level of the fields, and passes south in a line to Canosa. We breakfasted at an inn near the bridge, and regretted our not having followed Horace's example, in bringing a supply of bread from some other place §, for what we got here was as brown as mahogany,

\* Aufidus acer—longè sonantem—violens obstrepat.

HOR.

† This expression of Polybius is not easy to be understood; for there are certainly many high mountains farther west than the head of the Ofanto; it is probable, he meant that it rose west of the middle ridge: the Sele (Silarus) rises very near it, and discharges itself into the Tirrhene sea.

‡ Sic Tauriformis volvitur Aufidus.

HOR.

|| Perhaps Horace intended no more by this title, than an allusion to the bulls, genii with horns, minotaurs, or animals with human face and horns, by which it was usual to represent rivers on coins; for, in reality, the Ofanto may be said to flow from fifty springs as well as two, if we take in all the brooks that fall into it.

§ Panis longè pulcherrimus, ultra  
Callidus ut soleat humeris portare viator,  
Nam Canusi lapidosus.——

and so gritty that it set our teeth on edge to craunch it. The friable incompact contexture of the stone with which the millers grind their corn, rather than the sand of the area where it is trodden out, can alone have perpetuated this defect in the Canusian bread for nineteen centuries. I believe their millstones are of the soft concreted rock, which constitutes the greatest part of the coast. The corn is separated from the ear by the trampling of a great number of mares tied in a string by their tails, and whipped round and round. This operation is performed, in the Terra di Otranto, by a pair of oxen; who drag between them a very heavy rough stone, that breaks the sheaves, and shakes out the grain.

We were too much occupied with the evolutions of Hannibal, to think of any deviation from the direct route to Cannæ, so reserving Canosa, and its antiquities, for another opportunity, struck into the Barletta road at the corner of the inn, down the south side of the Ofanto. A ridge of low hills, bare of wood, and laid out in grass or corn land, confines the river on that side for four miles, at the end of which we came to a plain bounded by the Knolls, whereon stood the city of Cannæ\*. For the next mile the Ofanto flows again close under the hills, till, upon their sinking with a gentle slope into the plains of Barletta, it winds on

\* The Latins made the name of this city of the plural number, probably from its consisting of distinct parts, built on different eminences. The Greeks named it in the singular.



some miles farther through a dead flat, and empties itself into the gulph of Venice. On the north side, the rising grounds are much more remote from the sea, and all between is an uninterrupted level.

The traces of the town of Cannæ are very faint, consisting of fragments of altars, cornices, gates, walls, vaults, and underground granaries. It was destroyed the year before the battle; but being rebuilt, became an episcopal see in the infancy of Christianity. It was again ruined in the sixth century, but seems to have subsisted in an humble state many ages later; for we read of its contending with Barletta for the territory, which till then had been enjoyed in common by them; and in 1284, Charles the First issued an edict for dividing the lands, to prevent all future litigation. The prosperity of the towns along the coast, which increased in wealth and population by embarkations for the Crusadoes, and by traffic, proved the annihilation of the great inland cities; and Cannæ was probably abandoned entirely before the end of the thirteenth century.

At the foot of the hill is a large arch over a marble trough, which receives the waters of a copious spring. Here we found a camp of Abruzzese shepherds on the point of departing for the mountains. Rough in aspect, dialect, and dress, but civil and hospitable, they offered us milk, cheese, and cold meat. The chief of them gave us some

†

brass

brass coins of Zeno and Leo, found among the ruins; and seemed astonished at our offering to pay him for such baubles.

The hill above the well being rather higher than the rest, served as a reconnoitring post, where I inspected my notes, and took drawings of the country, before I entered the field of battle. My eyes now ranged at large over the vast expanse of unvariegated plains. All was silent; not a man, not an animal, appeared to enliven the scene. We stood on ruins, and over vaults; the banks of the river were desert and wild. My thoughts naturally assumed the tint of the dreary prospect, as I reflected on the fate of Rome and Carthage. Rome recovered from the blow she received in these fields; but her liberty, fame, and trophies have long been levelled in the dust. Carthage lies in ruins less discernible than these of the paltry walls of Cannæ: the very traces of them have almost vanished from the face of the earth. The daring projects, marches, and exploits of her hero, even the victory obtained on this spot, would, like thousands of other human achievements, have been long ago buried in oblivion, had not his very enemies consigned him to immortality; for the annals of Carthage exist no more: one common ruin has swallowed all.

The Roman Consuls, Æmilius Paulus and Terentius Varro, being authorized by the senate to quit the defensive plan, and stake the fortunes of the republic on the chance



of a battle, marched from Canusium, and encamped a few miles east, in two unequal divisions, with the Aufidus between them. In this position they meant to wait for an opportunity of engaging to advantage; but Hannibal, whose critical situation in a desolated country, without refuge or allies, could admit of no delay, found means to inflame the vanity of Varro by some trivial advantages in skirmishes between the light horse. The Roman, elated with this success, determined to bring matters to a speedy conclusion; but, finding the ground on the south side too confined for the operations of so large an army, crossed the river, and resting his right wing upon the Aufidus, drew out his forces in the plain. Hannibal, whose head quarters were at Cannæ, no sooner perceived the enemy in motion, than he forded the water below, and marshalled his troops in a line opposite to that of his adversaries.

Polybius, who had examined the place, was a military man, and may have been acquainted with persons that were present at the battle, was the guide I followed, as he is the original from whom subsequent historians took their accounts, and whose authority seems incontrovertible. He observes, that one of the armies faced the north, and the other the south; by which positions the rising sun incommoded neither. The difficulty lies in deciding which way each of them was turned; as the expressions of Polybius are said by some to admit of a double meaning, though I  
confess



confess I think nothing can be more explicit\*. Chaupy taxes Livy with having misinterpreted the passage of the Greek historian, who, according to his opinion, did not mean that the Romans stood with their faces to the noon-tide sun, but only that they were drawn up to the south of the enemy†. He affirms that the topography of the plain, and the course of the river, agree with this explanation, and that if the legions had faced the south, the runaways could not, after the defeat, have reached Canusium and Venusia, without passing through the whole victorious army. Salapia, Arpi, Luceria, would have been their places of refuge.

However, as I cannot but think Livy well enough versed in the Greek tongue, not to mistake the meaning of an author he studied and followed so closely; I am inclined to trust to his explanation; especially as, according to my ideas, the situation of the ground is in his favour; for, exactly in that part of the plain where we know with moral

\* Καὶ τὰς μὲν ἐκ τῆ μείζονος χάρακος διαβιβάζων τὸν ποταμὸν εὐθείως παρενέβαλλε. τὰς δ' ἐκ θαλάσσης συνάπλων τέτοις ἐπὶ τὴν αὐτὴν εὐθείαν ἐξέτατε, λαμβάνων πᾶσαν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν τὴν πρὸς μεσημβρίαν. Et hos quidem majorum castrorum ducens trans flumen, confestim in acie locabat. Illos verò minorum jungens cum prioribus rectâ lineâ apposuit, faciens totam apparitionem versus meridiem.—Βλεπέσης δὲ τῆς μὲν τῶν Ῥωμαίων τάξεως πρὸς μεσημβρίαν τῆς δὲ τῶν Καρχηδονίων πρὸς τὰς ἄρκτους· ἐκατέρωθεν ἀβλαβῆ συνέβαινε γίνεσθαι τὴν κατὰ τὸν ἥλιον ἀναβολήν. Spectante meridiem Romanorum acie, Carthaginiensium verò septentrionem, ambobus inoffensis contigit esse ab solis ortu.

† Livy's words are, " Romanis in meridiem, Pænis in septentrionem." " versis." Lib. xxii. 46.

certainly that the main effort of the battle lay, the Aufidus, after running due east for some time, makes a sudden turn to the south, and describes a very large semicircle. The Romans, we are to suppose, forded it at the angle or elbow, and placed their right wing on the banks; while the legions extended themselves due east, till the whole line came to face the south. The Carthaginians crossed in two places within the semicircle, and were drawn out in a line, that formed the chord of which the river was the arch: the way to Canusium was therefore open for the fugitives\*.

The scene of action is marked out to posterity, by the name of *Pezzo di Sangue*, "Field of Blood." The peasants shewed us some spurs and heads of lances, lately turned up by the plough; and told us, horse-loads of armour and weapons had been at different times carried off from thence.

These plains have more than once, since the Punic war, afforded room for men to accomplish their mutual destruction. Melo of Bari, after raising the standard of revolt against the Greek Emperors, and defeating their generals in several engagements, was at last routed here, in 1019, by the Catapan Bolanus. Out of two hundred and fifty Norman adventurers, the flower of Melo's army, only ten

\* All the maps are inaccurate in this province. D'Anville places Canusium on the northern bank of the river, and the battle several miles south of the Aufidus.

escaped

escaped the slaughter of the day. In 1201, the archbishop of Palermo and his rebellious associates, who had taken advantage of the nonage of Frederick of Swabia, were cut to pieces at Cannæ by Walter de Brienne, sent by the Pope to defend the young King's dominions.

We returned to Cerignuola across the fields.

## SECTION XXI.

NEXT day we hired a guide; or, to speak more correctly, a very talkative bustling fellow offered to conduct us across the plains to the ruins of Salapia. Our ride was pleasant for nine miles, over a fine down, with little corn or wood, but a great deal of lentiscus. We were brought at last to the edge of a long lake, separated from the sea by a narrow neck of land, cut into several ponds for making salt, which is piled up in heaps, and carried off by boats to the ships that ride at anchor in the road. We saw some lying a mile or two off, not being able to come nearer to take in their cargoes. The swamps are overgrown with sea purslain and dwarf withy, with which the shepherds and fishermen make their huts and baskets. Near the lake are the ruins we had come so far out of our way to see. They consist of a square fortification of earthen ramparts, with many divisions and fosses. I should have taken it for a camp rather than a town, as  
there



there is not a stone left near it, had not the tradition of the country, and the coins that have been found here, marked with the name of Salapia\*, determined the situation of that place. In the Punic war, Salapia was a post of consequence, which the Romans and Carthaginians were equally desirous of possessing. After the death of Marcellus, Hannibal affixed that Consul's seal to some forged letters, in hopes of gaining admittance into Salapia; but intelligence, accidentally conveyed to the garrison, defeated his purpose.

Salpi was a city and bishoprick till 1547, when the see was united to that of Trani. I believe it stood at La Trinità, some miles from the old town.

Our conductor, who during the whole journey had entertained us with wonderful stories of apparitions and miracles, at last disclosed the secret cause of his eagerness to accompany us thus far. This was no less than the hopes of discovering, among the many cavities in these ancient mounds, the entrance of an enchanted grotto, which contains a column of massive silver, and other precious things. It was, he assured us, the belief of the whole country, that whoever was pure enough from sin, and so favoured

\* Nummi Salapinorum.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Apollinis laur. ΣΑΛΑΠΙΝΩΝ. = Equus. tridens. ΠΥΛΛ.

2. Cap. Jovis ΣΑΛΑΠΙΝΩΝ = Aper ΠΛΩΤΙΟΥ.

3. Cap. Jov. ΣΑΛΑΠΙΝΩΝ = Aper. tridens ΠΥΛΛΟΥ.

4. Cap. Apoll. = Equus. stella ΣΑΛΠΙΝΩΝ.

5. Equus A. ΔΑΙΟΥ = Piscis ΟΝΙΠΑ.

6. Equus ΣΑΛΠΙΝΩΝ = Piscis ΕΔΑΜΑΙΠΕΔΑΕΕΝ.

7. Cap. imb. diad. = Equus. stella. ΖΑΛΠΙΝΩΝ.

by Heaven, as to penetrate into this mysterious cavern, would undoubtedly become possessed of treasure sufficient to buy up all the flocks of Puglia Piana. Our honest guide was sure of obtaining the preference, because he had been a few days before to pay his devoirs to the Madonna dell' Incoronata, and had taken every step enjoined by the church for purifying his soul from all stain ; however, he could not avoid being staggered, when, upon examining the whole place, not one of us could find a hollow above a foot deep ; and, with a look expressive of distress and confusion, he told us, he now recollected that many good men of his acquaintance (among the rest a capuchin friar of most exemplary life) had proved unsuccessful in their attempts to come at this bewitched cave. As he seemed to think our presence adverse to the influence of his stars, we took our leave, gave him for his trouble the only money he was likely to earn that day, and pursued our journey by the seashore. As long as our eyes were capable of discerning objects of that size, we could perceive him running up and down very busily, hunting after his imaginary grotto.

We rode through a rich arable country to the mouth of the Ofanto, and crossed the bridge into the Terra di Bari. There is a tide very perceptible about half a mile up the river. Three miles farther, we arrived at Barletta, through a narrow slip of an inclosed vine country, taken off the extensive corn lands of Cannæ ; the soil shallow, planted with almond trees.

Barletta has, from without, a ruinous aspect; its walls tumbling down, and its ditches filled with rubbish. But the inside of the city is magnificently built, though thinly peopled. It conveys the idea of a capital of some mighty state reduced to the condition of a conquered province, or depopulated by a raging pestilence. Frequent changes of masters, bad administration, and decay of commerce, blasted the prosperity of Barletta. Its streets are wide and well paved; the houses large and lofty, built with hewn stone, which, from age, has acquired a polish little inferior to that of marble. Some of these venerable mansions have the stones cut after the Tuscan manner, in angular shapes. The style of building fixes their date at the first emergence of the arts out of the chaos of barbarism, many of the houses still retaining pointed arches, short twisted columns, and other remnants of Saracenic taste; while others are decorated with pillars, entablatures, and members characteristic of the ancient Grecian architecture. This city owes its embellishments to the policy of the Aragonian kings, who resided here to secure the allegiance of the Pugliese.

In the cathedral, which is remarkable for its antique granite columns, Ferdinand the First caused himself to be crowned, in hopes that the solemnity of the ceremony would inspire the people with awe and respect for his person and family.

In the market-place stands a colossal bronze statue, seventeen feet three inches high, representing, as is supposed,



posed, the Emperor Heraclius, who began his reign in 610. He is standing dressed in a military habit, crowned with a diadem, a short cloak hanging from his left shoulder across his breast, and thrown over his left arm, which holds a globe; his right is raised above his head and grasps a small cross; the drawing is rude and incorrect, the attitude awkward\*. According to some historians, Heraclius was particularly attached to the worship of St. Michael, for whose church, on Mount Garganus, he intended this massy representation of himself, with many other valuable presents; the ship that brought them from Constantinople was cast away on the Puglian coast, and the statue thrown on the sands, where it lay many ages much damaged, and half buried. In 1491, it was dug up, and the hands and feet being restored, was placed in the great square of Barletta. Pontanus thinks this colossus stood originally at the head of the mole, which Heraclius had carried out into the sea for the convenience of navigators, and that the extended position of the hand denotes the protection he afforded to commerce. It long passed for the figure of Rachis, King of

\* The smoothness of the chin makes me hesitate whether to ascribe this statue to Heraclius, who is the second eastern Emperor that appears on the coins with a beard, or to some prior monarch. Till the time of his predecessor Phocas, sovereigns shaved their chins, though their oriental subjects cherished a length of beard. Cedrenus, indeed, assures us, that Heraclius conformed to that Imperial custom; but on his medals, he is drawn with a square beard, not unlike that of our Henry the Eighth. If this image be his, I suspect it was not imported from Greece, but cast in Italy, and consequently dressed after the Roman fashion.

Lombardy, who, in 749, resigned his crown, and took the habit of a Benedictine monk at Monte Casino.

The citadel is spacious, and commands the port, which is at present a mere labyrinth, consisting of several irregular piers, where ships are moored; but without any shelter from the north wind, which sweeps the whole basin. The exports here are salt, corn, almonds, and liquorice, a root that grows spontaneously in the swamps. This air is accounted unwholesome during the hot months.

Barletta is said by Baccius, to have been at first no more than a tower, or drinking-house, on the road to Cannæ, which had for its sign a barrel, *barilletta*; when the cities of Cannæ and Canosa fell to decay, and the advantages of trade drew people to the coast, a numerous colony insensibly gathered round this tower, and in 484 Pope Gelasius came down from Garganus to consecrate a church for the settlers, which, in time, became the cathedral of the united sees of Nazareth, Cannæ, and Monteverde. The Emperor Frederick added greatly to Barletta, and is by some called its founder. Other authors assign higher antiquity to the place, and suppose it to be the Barduli of the Itineraries. In 1291, the Barlettans rebelled against the house of Swabia, and set up the papal standard, for which they were severely punished. Manfred, who had a great partiality for this part of his dominions, held a general parliament here, in which he put in practice every endearing art, likely to win the hearts, and fix the wavering affections of  
his

his vassals. In the fifteenth century, Barletta was esteemed one of the four strongest fortresses in Italy \*. It was mortgaged to the Venetians by Ferdinand the Second, and retaken from them by Gonfalso de Cordova, who here collected his forces, and made his first stand against the French, in 1503.

## SECTION XXI.

ON leaving Barletta, we saw before us, on a peninsula, the city of Trani, at the distance of six miles; the road to it is one of the roughest ever trodden by man or beast; it runs partly along the rocks impending over the beach, and partly in narrow lanes, through vineyards, between dry stone walls. In every inclosure is one, and often two hovels, built in a spiral form, with the stones picked off the land after digging. These conical towers serve as watch-houses for the persons that attend before vintage, to prevent the depredations of quadruped and biped pilferers; when old and overgrown with climbing weeds and fig-trees, they become very romantic objects, and appear like so many ancient mausolea. The shape of these piles of rude stone, covered with moss and brambles, has deceived a writer of travels into a belief of their being Roman tombs; but I am surprised the prodigious multi-

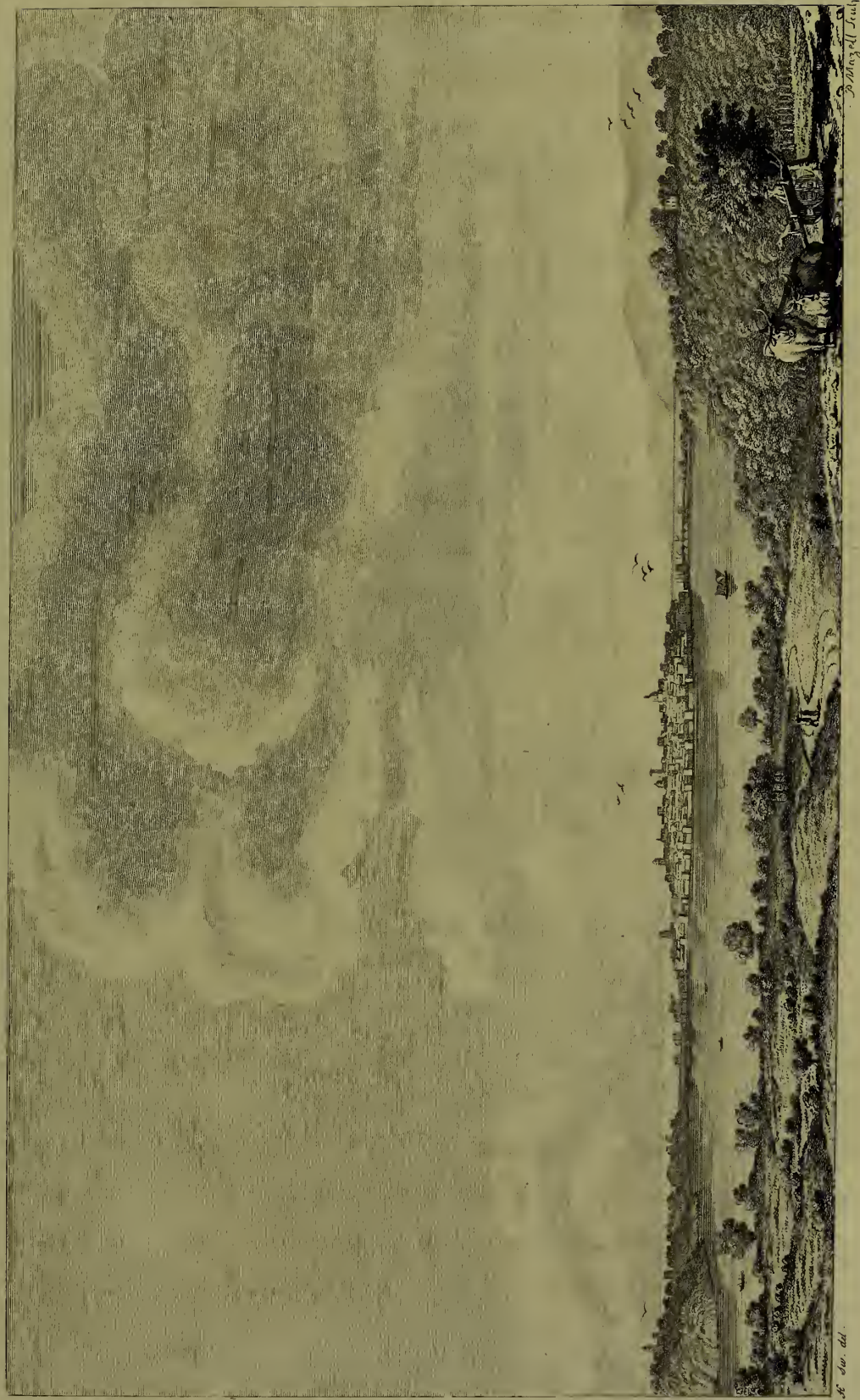
\* The other three were, Fabriano in the Marca, Prato in Tuscany, and Crema in Lombardy.



## JOURNEY TO TARANTO.

tude of them did not raise suspicion ; for if they were really depositories of the dead, the ashes of the whole Roman people would scarcely have sufficed to fill the columbaria of the single province of Bari.

As soon as we arrived at Trani, we waited upon the President, with a letter from the Secretary of State, and obtained from him, an order for all convents, in his district, to receive us civilly, and afford us lodging : we were provided with similar recommendations for every province, and except letters for private families, there is no better method to be pursued in a tour through a country so ill provided with inns. Our evening was spent with the Archbishop, a worthy conversable prelate. He told us, he had taken great pains to introduce a taste for study and literature into his diocese, but hitherto without success, as the Tranians were a very merry race, gente molto allegra, but unfortunately born with an unconquerable antipathy to application. The collegians, though under his immediate inspection, were above his hand, and often, when he thought the whole seminary buried in silence, wrapped up in studious contemplation, or deep in theological lucubrations, he has been surprised, on entering the quadrangle, to find all ring again with gigs and tarantellas. We were well satisfied that he spoke without exaggeration, for never did I hear such incessant chattering, and so stunning a din, as was kept up the whole day under our windows. It is a rule established by the custom of time immemorial, that no work shall be done in



The CITY of TARANTO Anc<sup>t</sup> TARENTUM from the NORTH SHORE of the MAREPICCOLO.

~ Site of the Ancient City. ~ Present Town. ~ Bridge & Aqueduct. ~ ~ ~ Mountains of Basilicata.







Trani after dinner; the whole afternoon is to be spent in dozing, chatting, or sauntering: we could not prevail upon the blacksmith to shoe one of our horses in the evening.

The exportation of corn is considerable, but little other business is stirring; and I am afraid industry has taken a long farewell of most of the cities on this coast. The great number of towns along the Adriatic, jealous of each other, shackled with honourable but baneful privileges, and averse to all friendly intercourse and coalition of interests, is an almost insurmountable bar to improvement; a province so blessed with articles of prime necessity might speedily rise to opulence, were trade properly understood and encouraged.

The bread of this place is white, light, and spongy, baked after the French manner, which is contrary to that of the Capitanata, where the bakers are ignorant of the very rudiments of their trade, and knead and bake their dough in such an imperfect manner, that a stranger is almost choked in attempting to swallow it.

Vegetables are here so exquisitely flavoured, that, for the first time of my life, I ate raw unseasoned lettuces with relish: pulse of all kinds are large and pulpy; the market people sell pease and beans by weight, and make use of pebbles in lieu of weights; a rude mode of dealing, which must expose the vender to great temptation of imposing upon his chapmen, especially as the stones, being of a soft kind,

kind, must in time lose part of their heaviness by frequent rubbing.

The wine of the district south of the Ofanto is sweet, strong, and tawny. It is mixed with mosto cotto; that is, a certain proportion of rich wine boiled down to a jelly. This is, no doubt, a trick of the vintner's art, handed down from the ancients, who treated their most precious wines in a similar manner, as we learn from many passages in the classics. The grapes have a fine flavour, and might produce excellent liquor, but from inveterate and rooted ignorance the proprietor brews with them a muddy unpalatable mixture, that will scarce keep a twelvemonth without turning to vinegar.

Trani is tolerably well built of stone, upon uneven ground. The harbour is incircled by the town, and has scarcely depth of water enough to set a boat afloat; the corn ships are obliged to come to an anchor a couple of miles off, and take in their lading from lighters. The city has been at great expence in building a quay, on a peninsula that advances so far as to embrace the haven; but this slip of land, instead of being occupied by the warehouses and stores of merchants, is entirely taken up by two or three overgrown monasteries. We need look for no other criterion of the state of commerce at Trani.

The cathedral stands on the opposite side of the harbour, and was erected six centuries ago, in a very mean taste; the ornaments preposterous, and, except a few pieces of foliage,

foliage, clumsily designed and executed ; the pillars short and thick, resembling those of our oldest English churches, which were built after the Saxon manner, and before the introduction of that lighter sort of architecture, which we distinguish by the name of Gothic, and admire in the cathedrals of York, Lincoln, Westminster, &c. The columns of the nave are solid blocks of granite, the dislocated spoils of some ancient edifice. Philip, Prince of Morea, second son of Charles the First, reposes in a marble coffin, without inscription or ornament, except the cross of Jerusalem. Innocent the Third made Trani an archbishopric.

West of the cathedral is the castle, consisting of some gloomy towers, built by Frederick of Swabia, who, in revenge for the depredations committed on his coasts by the Venetians, hanged Peter Tiepolo, the Doge's son, on the Keep, in sight of the Venetian gallies that were then cruising off the port.

The monastery of St. Clare is a sumptuous inclosure ; its great gate is built in that stile of architecture which the Puglians learnt from the Saracens during their long residence in the country. Those Africans, however ferocious they might be in war, were certainly well skilled in the arts of peace, and excelled in many branches of science, which Christians of those dark ages despised, or despaired of attaining.

In the first division of the conquests made by the Norman adventurers, and before any chieftain had acquired such a

B b

superiority



superiority over the rest, as to destroy the original equality of their aristocratical confederacy, Trani was assigned to one Peter, from whom the family of Capece deduces its pedigree, but, I think, on questionable grounds\*.

Under the walls of Trani was fought, in 1502, a trial of skill between eleven Spaniards and as many Frenchmen, in

\* Francis Capecelatro, in his *Origin of Nobility*, insists upon it, that Peter bore the name of Capece by inheritance, and was of the blood of the Gothic princes. More moderate genealogists believe the Capeci to be Normans by extraction, and to have settled at Sorrento, where they recommended themselves to notice by their skill as naval officers; they frequently are called Cacapecce in old chronicles, a name that an ingenious friend of mine thinks the original one, and allusive of their profession. They were raised early to an exalted rank in the state, and honoured with the confidence of many sovereigns. Marino Capece superintended the building of Manfredonia. Conrad signalised himself in the Swabian cause, which his family had always supported, and probably owed its fortunes to: after the battle of Benevento, he cut his way through the thickest squadrons of the enemy, headed a party in Sicily in favour of Conradine, and maintained to the last an unshaken fidelity to his old masters. This conduct rendered the Capeci extremely odious to the conqueror, who deprived many individuals of their lives, and many of their estates; he obliged the survivors to tack ignominious additions to their surname, such as *Latro*, *Galeota*, *Piscicelli*, *Zurolo*, *Minutolo*, *Tomacelli*, &c. which, in time, became honourable distinctions of the several branches of this numerous sept. In Naples, a family that spreads itself out into many branches, acquires thereby an increase of dignity and influence: in some countries, such a division contributes more to the destruction than the prosperity of a house. That of Capece was at one period divided into sixteen branches, but half of them are now extinct. It gave to the chair of St. Peter, one pope, viz. Boniface the Ninth, elected in 1389, extolled for his chastity, and blamed for his avarice and nepotism. Of this race was James Galeota, who, in 1488, commanded the French army, and defeated the Dukes of Brittany and Orleans at the battle of St. Aubin du Cormier. One of its most respectable present members, is the learned and amiable archbishop of Taranto.

support

support of the honour of their respective nations ; the Venetians sat as umpires. The combatants fought till there remained only six Spanish and four French knights ; the latter then alighted, and defended themselves behind their horses as behind a rampart, till night put an end to the contest.

## SECTION XXIII.

**B**ISCEGLIA is four miles distant from Trani. The road is very rugged, and being worn with wheels, and the course of rain water, is cracked into figures not unlike an ancient pavement ; and such it has been deemed by some writers, but I could not discover any traces of a Roman way : the great Brundusian road never came near the coast till it reached Bari.

The face of this country is delightful, and much more diversified than the neighbourhood of the Ofanto. We rode under the shade of fruit trees, of a size and vigour of growth unknown in more northern latitudes. The olives of this province are not inferior in bulk to the largest Seville ones.

Bisceglia is a pretty town, situated in the midst of orchards and villas. Its walls are of stone, and very lofty. I was unsuccessful in my researches after the antique buildings mentioned in an account of this place. I met with no

remains of baths or cellars, but hundreds of subterraneous reservoirs and cisterns, of all sizes and shapes, cut into steps in the solid rock, and arched over with stones and stucco, in order to collect and preserve the rain-water, which is the only sort they have to drink, in a district so totally destitute of springs.

This little city was granted by Charles the First to the Bruneforts; but its inhabitants seem to have had a great dislike to baronial government, by the tender they made to the Emperor Charles the Fifth, of fourteen thousand golden ducats, a large sum in those days, provided he would render them for ever a royal corporation, subject only to the jurisdiction of the King's officers. In the wars between Durazzo and Anjou, the Bisceglians, being dissatisfied with the behaviour of King Charles's garrison, sent to offer the keys of their town to his rival. The Angevines marched from Bari; but, having met with an unexpected resistance at Bisceglia, were obliged to make their entry by main force. This appearance of double dealing in the citizens exasperated the soldiers, and gave them a plea for plundering it as a place taken by assault. They would have laid it waste, had not Lewis of Anjou, their chief, curbed their fury by extraordinary activity and dint of authority. These generous exertions cost him his life, for they threw him into a fever, of which he died. He was a younger son of John, King of France, and, during the minority of Charles the Sixth, Regent of that kingdom; a trust which he did



not discharge to the satisfaction of the nation: his proceedings were arbitrary, and the extortions he committed, or suffered to pass unpunished, brought great odium upon him. It was the desire of accumulating funds for his Neapolitan expedition, and not innate avarice, that put him upon rapacious measures; for he possessed a liberal and munificent spirit, which attached to his cause the partizans he had gained by his eloquence and winning behaviour. His wit was lively, and his head clear for business; but he was not endowed with military talents, and by no means a match for his antagonist Charles the Third, one of the best generals of the age. Joan the First adopted Lewis, in opposition to Durazzo; but he came too late to save her.

The clergy offer to the devotion of the Bisceglians the liquefied blood of St. Pantaleon, and two other martyrs; a miracle performed annually at Naples, and in several other places of the kingdom. This species of prodigy was known to the Greeks of the Lower Empire, who introduced many opinions and religious practices into this part of their dominions. But miraculous liquefactions are of older standing in Puglia\*.

\* ————Dein Gnatia————  
 ————dedit risusque jocosque;

Dum flammis sine thura liquefcere limine sacro

Perfuadere cupit. ————

Hor. Sat. 5. Lib. 1.

“Next, Gnatia afforded subject for laughter, while she endeavoured to  
 “persuade us, that incense would melt on the threshold of her temple, with-  
 “out the help of fire.”

Three

Three miles more of the same wretched road, through olive woods and patches of vineyards, brought us to Mol-fetta. I did not enter the walls, but passed on through a well-built suburb. The outward appearance of the town is handsome; but the peep I had through the gate, shewed me nothing but lofty old-fashioned houses, and narrow dirty streets. It is said to contain twelve thousand inhabitants, and to carry on some trade in almonds and oil. The lordship belongs to the Spinolas.

In or near all these towns are convents of a stupendous bulk. At Giovenazzo is a most enormous fabric, belonging to the Dominicans; an order of friars that enjoys very large possessions in this realm, and in almost every city has a monastery, generally the best in the place. St. Thomas of Aquino, one of the great luminaries of the Latin Church, and a capital Saint of the Dominican Order, was a native of this kingdom; consequently a very natural impulse of national pride and affection led his countrymen to revere his memory, care for his brethren, and help them to increase in wealth and importance.

Giovenazzo is an ugly desolate city, on a rock hanging over the sea, containing about two thousand souls. It is now vested in the Crown, after having been a barony of the Giudici.

The only singular anecdote I meet with in history concerning Giovenazzo, is the devastation of its territory in 1437 by the Pope's general, Vitelleschi, Patriarch of Alexandria,

andria, who invaded Puglia in support of the Angevine cause. His hatred to the Aragonese was most virulent; and he seemed afraid lest his troops should be deterred from doing mischief, by motives of compassion or Christian charity. To quiet their scruples, and rouse their destructive zeal, he published an indulgence of an hundred days for every olive tree any of his soldiers should cut down. Strange perversion of the mild religion of Christ, who forbade his disciples to avenge his wrongs, and prayed for his enemies, while tormented by their malice! Our astonishment ought to be great, not that so many nations have seceded from the communion of the Pope, but rather that so many have remained faithful to him, amidst such horrid abuses committed by his ministers, in direct contradiction to the doctrine they were appointed to teach.\*.

Our afternoon's ride of twelve miles was cold and damp, the wind blowing fresh from the sea, and the way lying upon a bare rugged rock, high above the water, exposed to

\* To efface the bad impressions of this contradictory conduct, the Romans are fond of citing a tale from Boccaccio.—A Jew goes from Paris to Rome, in order to acquire a just idea of the Christian religion, as at the fountain head. There he beholds simony, intrigue, and abominations of all sorts; and, after gratifying his curiosity in every particular, returns to France, where he gives a detail of his observations to a friend, by whom he had been long solicited to abjure Judaism. From such a recital, the Christian expected nothing but an obstinate perseverance in the old worship; and was struck with amazement, when the Jew acquainted him with his resolution of requesting baptism upon the following grounds of conviction: That he had seen at Rome every body, from the Pope down to the beggar, using all their endeavours to subvert the Christian faith, which nevertheless daily took deeper and firmer root, and must therefore be of divine institution.

†

every



every blast. The country flat, and divided by stone walls. The soil is naturally poor, and would scarcely afford nourishment for a blade of grass, had not the husbandmen found means to improve and fertilize it by copious manurings of rotted sea-weed, of which there is an ample provision in every cove. The active disposition of the cultivators has converted their stubborn unfavourable land into the best tilled district in the province, and rendered its appearance luxuriantly rich and cheerful. It yields in abundance cotton, wine, oil, almonds, cummin, and fruits of numberless kinds and delicious flavour. The most esteemed are the grape, fig, pear, and pomegranate: want of skill in the gardeners prevents the other sorts from attaining that perfection they might be brought to. It has very little silk, and boasts of no mines; but there are salt-ponds, of great profit to the crown, the sole proprietor of all salt, fossile or factitious. A valuable breed of horses may be reckoned among its staple commodities, but how inferior in numbers and renown to the studs of ancient Japygia! I do not believe the whole kingdom now breeds as many horses as were to be found in this single province at the time it offered to supply Rome with an auxiliary force of fifty thousand foot and sixteen thousand horse.—What swarms of men, what droves of animals, then subsisted in a tract of land, where at this day a mere handful of human creatures, and a few beasts, find it difficult to subsist, and almost every year are indebted to supplies of corn from other countries!





NORTH View of the CITY of BARI.

*Basilica di S. Nicola. Castello S. Nicola. Castello S. Andrea.*



Bari makes a great figure at a distance. We lodged at the Dominican convent, where the good hospitable Prior gave us his own cell, as the repairs then in hand rendered the apartment for strangers absolutely uninhabitable. A plentiful fish supper was provided for us by our kind host, anxious to support the reputation of Bari in that article. The abundance and delicacy of the fish vouch for Horace's knowledge of the peculiar excellencies of his own country\*.

## SECTION XXIV.

**B**ARI is defended by double walls and an old castle; it occupies a rocky peninsula of a triangular form, about a mile in circumference. The houses, which are in general mean, and without any pretensions to ornamental architecture, are built upon a soil raised by the ruins of former edifices near thirty feet above the level of the sea. Pieces of old pavement have been frequently discovered by digging several feet below the present streets, which are uneven, narrow, crooked, and dirty. The new rampart above the harbour, is the only clean walk, and few are more pleasant; at every turn you catch a different view of the sea and coast, stretching from the mountains of Garganus to the hills of Ostuni. The towns that rise along this line, in various

\* ——— Piscoli mænia Bari.

degrees of shade, have a beautiful effect; and nothing can be more picturesque than the fleets of fishing-boats steering for their respective harbours on the approach of night. On shore, the full bloom of Spring and lively foliage, contrasted with innumerable white cottages, form an enchanting rural scene.

There is some reason to suppose that ancient Barium extended farther into the country than the present city. Isabella of Aragon, Dutchess dowager of Milan, began to cut a canal through the Isthmus, about half a mile from the gates: bridges were to correspond with the principal streets, and the intermediate space to be built upon. But this grand work, which would have redounded to her immortal honour, and the commercial prosperity of Bari, was destroyed by a sudden inundation in a rainy season, and never afterwards attempted to be resumed.

The Cathedral has no external beauties; its inside has lately been modernized, stuccoed, and painted, at the expence of the Archbishop, whose revenues do not exceed fix thousand ducats (£1,125). Under the choir is a chapel, supported upon short columns, which give it a great resemblance to the inside of the Mosque at Cordova. It is incrustated with party-coloured marbles, after a barbarous, fantastic design; and contains the bones of St. Sabinus, a patron of the town. The steeple is remarkable for being one of the highest in the kingdom\*: a second was begun

\* It is about two hundred and sixty-three feet high.



in 1617, but the apprehension of earthquakes stopped the work. The Barian writers pretend that the Norman kings, and some of their successors, were crowned in this church with an iron diadem, which is kept among its treasures ; but Giannone and others treat the matter as a mere fable.

The royal Priory of St. Nicholas is an ugly Gothic edifice, erected by Archbishop Elias and King Roger. It is a celebrated sanctuary, whither thousands of pilgrims resort to offer up their vows at the shrine of this Bishop of Myra, the patron of orphans. His relics are said to have been brought from Lycia in 1087 by some merchants ; though the legend assures us they floated hither of their own accord. The lands and immunities with which it was endowed by the Norman princes, were very considerable ; and one of its earliest privileges was an exemption from every jurisdiction except the papal. Charles the First held the Saint in great veneration, and gave many solid proofs of his munificent devotion. But Charles the Second put the finishing hand to its establishment ; for, imagining that he owed his deliverance from imprisonment and death to the intercession of his special protector, St. Nicholas, he thought himself bound in gratitude to confer upon his church an increase of wealth and splendour. Accordingly he obtained from the Pope many honourable distinctions ; augmented and settled its possessions ; and instituted for himself, and the succeeding Kings of Naples, the office of Treasurer, in which he was installed with great solemnity. The church



is rich in marble columns, and ornaments awkwardly arranged. Behind the high altar is a very sumptuous monument, erected by Anne Jagellon, wife of Stephen Battori, King of Poland, to the memory of her mother Bona, who was daughter and heiress of John Galeas, Duke of Milan, by Isabella of Aragon, widow of Sigismund the First, King of Poland, and Dutchess of Bari by investiture. In 1556, Queen Bona came with a splendid retinue to reside at Bari, where she died the following year. Her effigy is placed on its knees, and at the corners stand four statues, representing Poland, Lithuania, St. Stanislaus, and St. Nicholas. Here also is a dirty, dark, subterraneous chapel, the original place of worship, over which King Roger raised the present fabric. Underneath its altar is a hole, through which devout and curious persons thrust their heads, to behold a bone or two swimming below in water : This liquid is drawn up by the priests in a silver bucket, and distributed, under the name of Manna, as an infallible cure for sore eyes and disordered stomachs. The chaplains were so busied in their respective functions, that I could not obtain a sight of this tomb, and must therefore content myself with the accounts I received from others. In this lower chapel Urban the Second assembled a general council of the Latin Church, which in 1097 decided in favour of the procession of the Holy Ghost, and anathematized the Greek doctrine.

The

The castle is spacious and gloomy, inhabited by the Governor of the town, and a small garrison. Bona repaired it in 1554 for the reception of her court.

Religious Orders abound in Bari; and some of them have rich gaudy churches, with good paintings. The best are, a *Noli me tangere*, by Pietro da Cortona, at Santa Chiara; a Descent of the Cross, by Carlo Cignani; and an Invention of it, by Paul Veronese, at the Capuchins: in the Cathedral, some large pieces by Luca Giordano and his scholars. The convent of the Jesuits is converted into a college for young gentlemen\*.

I saw no monuments of antiquity, except a miliary column, some inscriptions, and a lion, of barbarous sculpture, placed in the great square, by the citizens of Bari, in 1002, as an offering of thanks to the republic of Venice, and its Doge, Peter Vescolo, who came with a powerful fleet, and obliged the Saracens to raise the siege of this city.

Not far from the town, at a place said to have been the general cemetery of ancient Barium, chance has brought to light great quantities of funeral pots, known among the virtuosi by the name of Etruscan vases; though for one that was moulded in Tuscany, thousands were baked in Campania, where the same sort of ware was in constant use. They are greatly admired for the lightness of the clay,

\* There are twelve convents for men, five for women, and three hospitals.

the elegance of their forms, and the profound learning supposed to lie hidden beneath the ambiguous characters and various groups, painted upon them in tawny yellow colours, on a dark ground. These figures, and the shape of the urns, have been of great service in improving the taste, and multiplying the ideas, of our artists and porcelain manufacturers; but have contributed little to the advancement of historical or antiquarian knowledge, as scarce a single group has been explained to the universal satisfaction of the learned. The great vogue these vessels have had among the rich and curious collectors of the age, has set the ingenious Italians to work in counterfeiting them; and it is now no unusual thing for a young dilettante to have a modern jar, with proper cracks and dirt, palmed upon him for a real antique. A Barian citizen, lately possessed of a noted assortment of these curiosities, told me that the most beautiful of them had been found in a large sepulchre, about a yard below the surface of the earth; it contained a skeleton inclosed within a stone coffin, round which these vases were placed empty. Encouraged by this discovery, he dug in several other vineyards, and met with similar vaults, but no urns of a fine grain or finished workmanship.

At the southern corner of the peninsula, is a kind of harbour, affording tolerable shelter to vessels of small burden. As Bari had formerly gallies of its own, I presume it had a safer place for them to ride in. Its traffic was once very flourishing, being a mart for the Dalmatians and Levantines;



vantines; but the exorbitant duties, and ill-judged restrictions with which the commerce of this kingdom is hampered, have long ago driven merchants to other markets: however, the Barians, whose number amounts to sixteen thousand seven hundred, are an active pains-taking race, and carry on no despicable trade in oil and almonds; besides these two capital objects, they send a considerable quantity of potash, soap, aniseed, and even garlick, to the Venetian islands.

## SECTION XXV.

**I** FIND little mention made in ancient authors of Barium, its foundation or history; coins struck by its municipal magistrates still exist†. The Lombards, Greeks, and Saracens, disputed the possession of this city in the ninth century. In the tenth, it rose to distinction, on becoming the residence of the Greek Catapan or Viceroy, and of a metropolitan Bishop. In 1089, the archiepiscopal dignity was confirmed by the court of Rome. The book of constitutions, compiled for the juridical government of the pro-

† Nummi Barinorum.

ARG. 1. Cap. Mercurii=Gryps BA

ÆR. 1. Cap. Jovis laur.=Prora navis in quâ Cupido stans arcum tend. subtus delphin BAPINON.

2. Cap. Palladis gal.=Navis & Cupido coronam impon. trophæo.

3. Cap. Jovis=Prora BAPI. Æ.

vince, and still in use, is a respectable voucher for the importance and policy of Bari, during the middle ages.

About the year 1000, Bari became the scene of conspiracies and revolutions: here Melo formed the project of the first confederacy against the Grecian Emperors, and though he did not live to see any great success attend his schemes, yet it was owing to his sagacity in pointing out the way, that the Normans were enabled to expell the Greeks from Italy; out of respect for his memory, those conquerors raised his son Argirius to the supreme command over their league. Bari did not steadily adhere to Melo's plans, but soon returned to the obedience of the eastern Emperor, and was one of the last and firmest supports of his dominion.

In 1067, Robert Guiscard invested it by sea and land, and to prevent succours being thrown in, inclosed it with a semicircle of ships joined together by chains and booms, each extremity having a bridge of communication with the camp; which completed the line of circumvallation. This blockade lasted four years, during which, both parties exhausted every art of attack and defence practised in those ages, when the machines for demolishing fortifications were clumsy and feeble, and when famine, more frequently than force, compelled towns to surrender. The Barians, finding themselves worn out with hard fare and incessant alarms, and foreseeing that the obstinacy of their adversary would at length overcome their powers of defence, endeavoured to avert their ruin by cutting off the chief of the besiegers;

with this intent, one Amerinus stole out of the city by night, and drawing up to the quarters of Guiscard, attempted to kill him, by thrusting a poisoned lance through the wattles of his hut; but the weapon proved too short, and Robert, as we are told by his honest biographer Malaterra, took care to have the wickered walls of his cabin well plastered over, to prevent such attacks for the future.

Earl Roger soon after joined his brother with a strong fleet, and helped him to carry on his assaults with such vigour, that the besieged were on the point of capitulating, when their hopes were revived by the appearance of an Imperial squadron coming to their relief, under Josceline d'Avranches, a Norman gentleman, who had sought his fortune in Greece, and ingratiated himself with the Emperor. The Greek ships were no sooner descried, than Roger slipped his cables, and ran out to sea to give them battle. Josceline was true to his trust, and bore down gallantly upon the Earl: the engagement was sharp, but very short; for the Greeks were no match for the Norman veterans. The Imperial vessels were taken, sunk, or dispersed, and their admiral made a prisoner. Roger returned triumphant, and Bari opened its gates to the conquerors.

To secure the allegiance of so capital a town, a citadel was afterwards erected by King Roger; but it was scarcely finished, when the Emperor Lotharius razed it to the ground. Upon the retreat of the Imperialists, Jacinthus assumed the title of Prince, and refused to submit to the King, who laid siege to the city. Bari was then a populous

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place,



place, and made an obstinate resistance. The capitulation was honourable, but rendered invalid by a clause, stipulating, that all the Royalists, taken during the siege, were to be delivered up safe and unhurt. When the King made his entry into Bari, a Norman captive, who had been deprived of his sight, and otherwise cruelly treated by the orders of Jacinthus, was led through the crowd to the feet of his sovereign, to claim justice and vengeance. Roger, willing to seize any pretext for annulling the capitulation, assembled his council, declared the treaty void, and caused Jacinthus, with his principal adherents, to be hanged.

Majone, prime minister to William the Bad, was born at Bari, the son of a notary; but the affection, we may presume, this favourite retained for the place of his nativity, did not prevent William from treating it with the utmost severity. The Barians had joined in the grand rebellion against him, had demolished his castle and palace, and given the furniture as plunder to their soldiers; therefore, when the chief citizens fell on their knees before him, suing for mercy, he answered all their supplications with these words: "You did not spare my house, how can you expect I should spare yours?" They were ordered to dislodge within the space of two days, and their dwellings to be levelled to the ground. The city must have risen very speedily out of its ruins, as the Emperor Frederick established an annual fair here in 1233, and in 1248, ordered the town to be destroyed, to punish the inhabitants for treasonable practices.

The first person enfeoffed with the honours of Bari was Bohemund of Antioch, who accepted of these and other demesnes in lieu of his birthright. The second was Tancred son of King Roger; Jacinthus had them next. The Princes of Taranto, descended from Charles the Second, held them afterwards. Their heirs carried this barony into the house of Baux, which was dispossessed by Joan the First. During her reign, John Pipino Earl of Minervino, usurped this fief for a short time. He was the son of an officer of the revenue, who, having amassed great riches by the management of the public money, or by treasures found at Lucera, where he superintended the expulsion of the Saracens, purchased large estates for his children. John was an empty vain-glorious man, deceived into a high opinion of his own consequence by the flattery of miscreants and parasites, who flocked from all parts to share the prodigal bounty of this new-made nobleman. The success that attended an expedition against Nicholas Rienzi, the famous tribune of Rome, completed his intoxication. The Orsini and Colonna factions, being overpowered by that demagogue, craved assistance from Minervino, who always entertained a formidable band of soldiers ready for mischief. Pipino embraced the opportunity of employing his troops, defeated Nicholas, and returned to Puglia mad with joy and pride. His insolence, rapacity, and excesses now disdained all bounds; and half the neighbouring provinces were desolated by his lawless freebooters. The royal anger was at last roused, and a complete overthrow, near Ascoli, crushed all



his glories; his adherents fled, and Pipino himself, abandoned and betrayed, was taken and hanged at a window of the castle of Altamura; his brothers shared his unhappy fate: and thus one generation saw the rise and fall of this powerful family.

Ladislaus granted Bari to the Orfini Princes of Taranto, who afterwards enjoyed it almost as a free sovereignty, having extorted from Alphonfus the First the privilege of exporting all manner of commodities without paying any duties to the crown. This exemption brought in great riches, and rendered them very formidable, as Ferdinand the First found to his sorrow, in his wars with the Barons. While Aragon and Anjou were contending, James Caldora, a famous Abruzzese chieftain seized upon Bari, and his son Anthony assumed the title of Duke.

Upon the extinction of the house of Taranto, Bari reverted to the King, and was settled by Alphonfus the Second, upon the family of Sforza, in consideration of the marriage of his daughter Isabella with the Duke of Milan. According to treaty, these estates became the property of Bona Queen of Poland, at whose death this duchy returned to the crown; to which it has ever since remained annexed.

Our stay at Bari was prolonged by my fellow-traveller's being seized with a feverish complaint, which at first wore an alarming appearance, but soon took a favourable turn: however, he did not think it safe to continue his journey farther



farther south, as the weather was growing very warm; and therefore determined to return to Naples as soon as possible. I continued our original route on the 29th of April.

The first place I came to was Mola di Bari, a town containing six thousand souls, prettily situated on rocks, and very shewy from afar: what it may be on a nearer view I know not, as I rode past without stopping, my memorandums making no mention of any thing remarkable in it. I next passed by the Franciscan convent of Cape San Vito, delightfully seated among the olive groves, on a neck of land jutting out into the sea. Here travellers usually dine or sleep; but as it had been represented to me as a very bad place of baiting, I rode a mile farther for dinner to Polignano, a small city, perched, like a bird's nest, on a crag rising perpendicularly out of the water. The bishop resides at Mola. The Caraccioli, Rodolovich, Toraldi, Stendardi, Boffa, and Lieto, have been successively lords of this place.

The soil of the whole tract I travelled through this morning is shallow and rocky, covered with olive trees, which are the principal object of the cultivator's care, as oil is the main support of commerce in this province. The rocks abound with pectinites of a large size.

While my dinner was preparing, I amused myself with looking at some peasants casting wooden balls with their feet; they are extremely dextrous at the sport, lifting the ball up with their toe, and tossing it a considerable length, along a high road as rugged and full of protuberances as the Glaciers of Switzerland.

## JOURNEY TO TARANTO.

In the afternoon, I had a pleasant ride of five miles, through noble olive woods, to Monopoli. This city, like most others on the coast, deceives one by its outward appearance into an opinion of extent and magnificence, which vanishes on closer inspection. The environs are neatly planted with fig, almond, and some few lemon and orange trees. I saw but one garden that had any shew of those evergreen fruit-trees to boast of. Olives are the grand concern. The extent of the plantations of this valuable tree is really astonishing. I was assured that the olive woods reach from Monopoli twelve miles, on three sides, without interruption. There are no great Barons in its immediate neighbourhood; and every burgher has his *massaria* or farm, which he cultivates on his own account. This territory is said to yield annually twenty thousand *salme* of oil.

Monopoli is a dark disagreeable town, with narrow, crooked streets, and very lofty flat-roofed houses. It is supposed to have been originally a station called Egnatiolum, and to have grown to the size and dignity of a city, by the ruin of Gnatia. In the first Norman partition, it fell to the share of Hugh. The Capeci were for some time its possessors.

## SECTION XXVI.

NEXT morning I was on horseback before sun-rise, intending to make a very long day's journey; and being apprehensive, from the heavy feel of the air, that I should suffer from intense heat in the noon-tide hours. My prognostics were but too just; for a hotter sun, and a more stifling sultriness, could not be felt in the dog-days.

The soil of the country is a reddish petrification, evidently the same as the rocks upon the shore. As I rode along, the huge piles of sea-weed, which almost form a rampart on the coast, appeared to be equally unaffected either by wind or waves. I alighted several times to examine these heaps, and found different degrees of hardness in them. Some were quite moist and mucilaginous; others already petrified on the surface, but soft and pliable within; others again thoroughly pervaded by the stony humour.

The swarth on the sands is very poor, and produces few uncommon plants. One is a beautiful poppy, of a bright yellow colour.

At a mile's distance from Monopoli, the landscape expands itself, and on the right hand discovers a long range of woody hills. The olive grounds in the plain are remarkable for their great extent, thickness of foliage, and size of trees.

They



They are pruned into the form of a cup, by cutting out the centric upright branches, in the same manner as gardeners trim gooseberry bushes. This treatment lets in an equal share of sun and ventilation to every part, and brings on an universal maturity.

Six miles farther are the ruins of Gnatia, the last stage but one of Horace's journey to Brundisium, and now called Torre d'Agnazzo. Little remains except part of the ramparts, which, near the sea, are entire as high up as the bottom of the battlements. Sixteen courses of large stones are still complete; and the thickness of this bulwark is exactly eight yards; an extraordinary breadth, which I ascertained by repeated measurements. The town seems to have been square, and its principal streets drawn in straight lines. On the most elevated part is a watch-tower; and probably this was the situation of the ancient citadel. Near it are some arches and vaults. The view towards Monopoli is extremely beautiful.

Want of water caused the destruction of Gnatia; a scarcity I had an opportunity of being made sensible of, and which naturally explains Horace's phrase of

———Gnatia lymphis  
Iratæ exstructa.———

The few pastoral inhabitants of these ruins have no temples left to melt incense in without fire, for the diversion or astonishment of passengers. But the art is not lost in the kingdom;

kingdom ; and, whether preserved by tradition or revived by ingenuity, is still practised with success.

The stone employed in building along this coast, is cut with great ease in every part of the country. It is a soft whitish concretion, that hardens by being exposed to the air. The method used by the quarrymen is extremely simple : they clear away the soil from the level parts, and then hew out regular cubes, which leave vacancies in the rock exactly resembling ponds, baths, or reservoirs, with flights of steps all round leading down to the bottom. These holes are frequently filled up with earth, and olive sets planted in them.

The cystus, which grows in great abundance on these waste lands, exhaled so powerful an effluvium, when the sun had been risen some time, that I was overcome with it. One of the servants, already half dead with heat and fatigue, had the additional ill-fortune of being frightened almost out of his wits. As we were trotting along the burning sands, he on a sudden gave a loud shriek, and threw himself from his horse, crying out that he was a dead man, for either a scorpion, a tarantula, or a serpent had stung him on the instep. On pulling off his boot, I found that his terrors and pains were caused by the rays of the sun, which had penetrated through a hole in the upper leather, and raised a blister on the skin. The preposterous gestures and expressions of this lazzarone supported my spirits till we arrived at a small single house, consisting



of a kitchen, loft, and stable, lately erected for the convenience of travellers, by the agents of the Order of Malta, to which the land belongs. The kitchen was too hot for me to breathe in, and the other two apartments as full of fleas as Shakespeare's inn at Rochester; so that my only refuge was the narrow shade of the house, which was contracted every minute more and more, as the sun advanced towards the meridian. Behind the house then I sat down, to dine upon the fare we had brought in our wallet. Unluckily I had not thought of wine or water, neither of which were now to be had tolerably drinkable; so that I was obliged to content myself with the water of a cistern full of tadpoles, and qualify it with a large quantity of wine, that resembled treacle much more than the juice of the grape. While I held the pitcher to my lips, I formed a dam with a knife, to prevent the little frogs from slipping down my throat. Till that day I had had but an imperfect idea of thirst.

As soon as we had recruited our strength and spirits, we left the inn, and retired gradually from the sea, drawing up towards the hills, through olive groves that afforded us a very welcome shade. Flocks of turtle doves skimmed across the road; but, though they frequently fluttered near me, I respected the virtues ascribed to them by the poets too much to think of shooting at them:—young ones are esteemed a great dainty. The mode of killing them is very singular: When the sun is vertical, and the sky clear, a couple of

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sportsmen



sportsmen drive into the olive grounds in an open chaise, and move slowly, but continually, round the trees, till they spy a dove sitting upon the boughs. The poor bird, struck with the unusual sight, or giddy with the rotation of the wheels, fixes its eyes upon them, and whirls its head round in imitation of their motion. When the eye of the turtle is thus fascinated, one of the fowlers slips out of the carriage, and fires his piece. Little stone basons full of water are also frequently placed for the doves to drink at, while the shooter lies in ambuscade behind a bush.

At the end of six miles we rode up to Ostuni, a poor episcopal city, on a steep rocky brow, overlooking a whole forest of olive trees, and a long range of coast. In the fourteenth century it belonged to the Sanseverini, and afterwards to the Zevallas\*.

\* On a green before the church of the Capuchin friars, the Duke delle Noci was killed in single combat by the Duke of Martina in 1664; at which time the fury of fashionable murder raged with great violence among the proud ungovernable nobles.

A most famous duel was fought the same year between Don Francis Caraffa and Don Julius Aquaviva, who, after many bootless arbitrations, finding themselves under an indispensable necessity of deciding a family quarrel by the sword, sought for a proper place to engage in. No Roman Catholic state would allow of a public duel, because such combats are anathematized by the ecclesiastical canons; they therefore applied to the imperial city of Nuremberg, and obtained leave to draw regular lists, and to come to action, under the safeguard of that magistracy, in presence of the nobility of the country. Don Francis was disabled by a wound in the arm, and the victory adjudged to his antagonist.—The doughty knights embraced on the field of battle, and returned together very good friends to Naples. Such an adventure as this cast a ridicule upon the practice, and co-operated with the growing effeminacy of manners in stifling the spirit of duelling.

## JOURNEY TO TARANTO.

We now entered a more agreeable atmosphere, where the heat was tempered by a gentle breeze. The appearance of Ostuni was so far from inviting, that I determined to travel to Francavilla that night. The road was stony, and continually up and down hill, through a poor desert country, much covered with thin woods of unhealthy stunted oaks. These hills are the south-east extremity of a ridge that runs out from the Apennines, at a point many miles to the north-east of our road: we never came in sight of any mountains. From hence to the cape of Santa Maria di Leuca\*, there is not a single eminence of any consequence; the whole tract is rather an uneven plain than a hilly country. Without rivers, and almost without rivulets, yet from some extraordinary quality in the soil, and the vapours of subterraneous lakes, this province is surprisingly fertile and vegetative. The existence of underground reservoirs is proved by the shallowness of the wells, and by the pools that appear wherever the level is low. All the rain that falls is swallowed up, before it can reach the sea, by large cracks in the rocks, called Voraggini, or Abysses, marked down in the maps as lakes. In this corner of Italy every geographer, except Zannoni, draws, from the Apennines near Venosa to the Capo di Leuca, an uninterrupted diagonal chain of lofty mountains, upon which is written, *Branch of the Apennines*. This line is engraved of a size that would, if

\* The ancient Promontorium Salentinum, which terminates the peninsula of Japygia, at the tip of the heel of the boot, to which geographers have likened the shape of Italy.



it existed, render the communication between Bari and Taranto, as difficult as the passage of Mount Cenis or Sempion in the Alps. Had these geographers visited the country they were about to delineate, or even enquired of the common carriers how they pass this imaginary cordillera, they would soon have been made sensible of their error; for so little is the whole tract aforesaid raised above the level of the sea, that, from the round Knolls of Oria, a central point between Taranto and Brindisi, there are few risings high enough to prevent the eye from commanding a view as far as the sea, in each direction. Had they attended to the idea conveyed by Virgil, in his description of the distant appearance of this peninsula, they might have suspected something of the truth. That sensible poet plainly indicates the lowness of the Salentine shores, in the third book of the *Æneid*, where his Hero relates the voyage southward, from that point of Epirus called the Acroceræonian mountains, now Monti della Chimera, which are not sixty miles from Otranto:

Provehimur pelago vicina Ceraunia juxta;  
Unde iter Italiam, cursusque brevissimus undis—

\* \* \* \* \*

Jamque rubescebat stellis Aurora fugatis,  
Cum semel *obscurus colles, humilemque videmus*  
Italiam\*.—————

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\* “ We are carried on the waves near the Ceraunian cape, from which  
“ point is the shortest passage to Italy.—And now Aurora rose blushing,  
“ after putting the stars to flight; when suddenly we behold the  *dusky hills*  
“ and *low shores* of Italy.”

Could



Could they suppose so exact a describer would have called Italy *low*, and spoken only of *hills*, lighted up by the rising sun, if there had been any mountains in the Salentine territory, where, from the narrowness of the land, they must have reached to the very edge of the water? Every one that knows any thing of the Italian atmosphere, must recollect that sixty miles is not a sufficient distance to hide such mountains as the Apennines from the sight, if they really did extend their branches so near to Greece; and that to navigators their tops would be visible in the morning, long before the low country at their feet.

Towards dusk, we left the high lands, and traversing a well-cultivated champaign country, arrived at Francavilla, where, by the Prince's orders, I was received and treated with extraordinary respect.

## SECTION XXVII.

I **TOUGHT** to esteem the next day as one of the most brilliant of my life; for I received honours sufficient to turn the head of a plain English gentleman. As soon as I was drest, an audience was demanded by Don Domenico, the Steward, who having formerly officiated in the capacity of Clerk of the Chamber to the Princess, was perfectly qualified for the post of Master of the Ceremonies. Being admitted in his gala suit of many colours and antique cut,

cut, he expressed his disappointment on finding he had the honour of receiving but one *Nobile Signore* instead of two, as his master had notified. After I had explained the reason of my friend's absence, he launched out into pathetic compliments of condolance, and promised me, that the chaplain should offer up prayers for his speedy recovery. And now the Rector of the College, the Father Guardian of the Capuchins, and the Magistrates, entered in great form. The first addressed me in a short, polite speech, which he uttered with some embarrassment. My introducer of Ambassadors whispered in my ear, that the Rector had composed a very eloquent harangue for *two* illustrious travellers; but on finding only one, had been obliged to lay it aside, as he could not at a minute's warning adapt to the singular all the figures of rhetoric which were addressed to the dual number. What I lost in his discourse, was made up to me by the friar, who, with a nasal tone and many bows, bestowed upon me every possible virtue, and struck out such wild metaphors, as quite enchanted his auditors, and almost threw me off my guard. He acquainted the company, that I travelled into foreign parts to collect oil for the lamps of science in my own country; that my mother wit was the wick, and my eloquence the flame.—I was happy to dismiss the orators, and was accompanying them to the door, when my Mentor stopped me short, lest I should make too great a concession.

I was

I was afterwards conducted to the chapel, where the town-musicians played, and a cloud of incense darkened the place during the whole service; after which Don Domenico led me out to see the town, or rather to be seen, for we had a mob at our heels all the way. I was heartily sick of my glory, and should have fled from it, had I not been sensible how great a mortification it would have been to my hosts.

Francavilla is large and regularly built; the streets wide and straight; the houses shewy, though in a heavy style of architecture. Since the year 1734, when a considerable part of the town was thrown down by an earthquake, the inhabitants are so afraid of another visitation, that they dare not raise their dwellings more than one story above the ground-floor. The main street would be thought handsome even in a capital city. The avenues to the gates are well planted, and afford a pleasant shade. The inhabitants, in number twelve thousand, subsist by the sale of oil and cotton, of which last they make very fine stockings. A great quantity of tobacco is raised in the lordship, which, by a composition entered into with the farmers of the revenue, is allowed to be cured and manufactured here into a species of snuff, in colour, flavour, and softness, not a bad imitation of the Spanish.

The Capuchins have a spacious convent, and a new church, airily and fantastically fitted up: the pulpit and



confessionals are of inlaid wood, worked by the hands of a friar.

The college, directed by priests of the Scuolepie, is a large edifice, with many handsome halls and galleries. They teach, as far as philosophy inclusively, to about half a dozen boarders, and a considerable number of day-scholars.

The principal parish-church is new, gay, and well lighted; but so stuccoed, festooned, and flowery, that the whole decoration is a mere chaos. The plan was drawn at Rome, but executed by a Puglian architect, who from caprice or blunder reversed the disposition of the parts, and opened the chief door at the head of the Latin cross, a place usually allotted to the altar and choir. This alteration is no improvement in the art, but, on the contrary, an experiment productive of very awkward effects. In a side chapel is a dark portrait of the Madonna, which was the cause of the foundation of the town.

In 1310, as Philip of Anjou, Prince of Taranto, was hunting in the forests, which then covered the face of the country, a stag was driven into a grotto, where the hunters discovered this wonder-working image. It was removed with great solemnity to a chapel, and, in order to encourage people to settle round it for its defence, Philip granted lands to all comers, with ten years exemption from taxes; and, as a pledge of the sincerity of his intentions, named the colony *Francavilla*, or Freetown; and gave it

an olive tree, the emblem of peace and fertility, for its armorial seal.

The number of these devout paintings extant in the Neapolitan dominions, and said by their legends to have been accidentally discovered in caverns, woods, or wells, need not surprise us, if we recollect that the Saracens frequently over-ran these provinces. On the approach of the Barbarians, it is natural to suppose that the Greeks, who were undoubtedly the painters of such portraits, would hide what was most precious to them, and most obnoxious to the insults of the infidels. The hiding-places were forgotten, either from the long residence of the invaders in the kingdom, or the destruction of those who secreted the holy treasures.

The Prince's mansion is a quadrangular castle, surrounded by a dry ditch. The apartments are spacious; but, as the owner has been absent above fourteen years, every thing wears the face of neglect and decadency.

This and the adjoining manors were purchased, about the middle of the sixteenth century, by the Imperiali of Genoa, from St. Charles Borromeo, archbishop of Milan; who, if we may believe his biographers, distributed in one day the whole purchase-money to the poor of his diocese, at that time afflicted with the joint scourges of pestilence and famine.

The Marquis of Oria, grandfather to the present proprietor, resided constantly on his estate; and being an adept in rural economy, managed all his concerns himself, received  
his

his rents in kind, and, by his great skill in disposing of his commodities to advantage, made every article turn to account. At present, very little remains unlet; the rents are paid as the crops are got in and sold, not at stated days of payment. All tythes belong to the Lord of the Manor, who is the lay impropiator; for the Church has only its glebe. Many gentlemen of a secondary rank hold their lands of the Prince, as under-tenants, by the payment of a fixed fine for their investiture, nearly in the same manner as our copyholders make surrenders, and hold estates by copy of court-roll. There are besides many owners of land, not of noble degree, who pay the tenth of all their crops to the Prince.

After my walk, I sat down to a pompous repast; but as the cook, who was never very skilful in his profession, and had been twenty years retired upon half-pay, chose to exert all his abilities on so grand an occasion, it was scarcely possible to get down any of his ragouts, and out of the reach of all guessing to name a single dish. I could not prevail on Don Domenico, or any of my company, to partake of the feast; so that I sat, like Governor Sancho, surrounded by all my officers, doctor, steward, chaplain, and musicians. In one point my case differed from that of the 'squire errant; for the physician, instead of conjuring away the plates, was very attentive in recommending and pressing me to eat of every dish, though I



observed he durst not venture to fix a name upon any one of them.

After this long and tiresome meal, I was left to take my afternoon nap, and in the evening entertained with the tragedy of Judith and Holofernes, acted by the young people of the town, in a theatre belonging to the castle. Their rude accent, forced gestures, and strange blunders in language, rendered their dismal drama a complete farce. When the heroine murdered the general, the whole house shook with thundering bursts of applause; the upper part of his body was hidden by the side scenes; the lower parts lay on a couch upon the stage, and in the agonies of death were thrown into such convulsions, kickings, and writhings, as melted the hearts and ravished the souls of the attentive audience. Judith then came forward, and repeated a long monologue, with her sword in one hand, and a barber's block, dripping with blood, in the other. Never was tragedy-queen sent off the stage with louder or more sincere acclamations.

## SECTION XXVIII.

*May* } **I** TOOK a ride to Oria, a city romantically situated  
*2d.* } upon three hills, in the centre of the plains. The  
 castle and cathedral stand boldly on the highest points.  
 This is a place of great antiquity, a colony of Cretans; on  
 its

its coins a minotaur\*. Servilius, an officer of Octavius Cæsar, was here surpris'd by Mark Antony. In the lower ages it became part of the rich patrimony of the Baux. The Bonifazii were afterwards possessed of Oria; but about the year 1540 the last male heir of the family renounced his country and fortune with his religion, and retired to Geneva. The cause of this renunciation was the shameless conduct of his sisters, who, by living in public concubinage with the Viceroy and the Nuncio, brought disgrace upon their brother. The Marquisate now belongs to the Prince of Francavilla.

I continued my ride a few miles south, to another estate of the Imperiali, called Casalnuovo, through an open country, abounding with corn and cotton, prettily divided by rows of olive and almond trees. The cotton was just coming up, with two yawning lobes, exactly like the cotyledones of the common bean. It is of the shrubby kind, and, when full grown, resembles the raspberry plant. The pods of cotton are at top, and, when ripe, burst, and disclose a tuft of down, the wings destined to convey the seed through the air. The land intended for this crop is very neatly drest, and laid down in flat narrow ridges: the season for ploughing, between January and April. The cotton is then sown; and, as soon as the shoots appear, the

\* Nummi Hyrinæorum.

ARG. 1. Cap. Palladis gal. noctua. = Minotaurus gradiens TPINAI.

2. Cap. Pallad. = Minotaurus IANIAT.

3. Facies plena imb. = Minotaurus ANIAT.



field is hoed, and weeded with a small mattock. After a crop of cotton, it is usual to take one of wheat, then one of barley or oats; afterwards the land is suffered to lie fallow, or is used as a pasture for sheep during twelve months, and the ensuing year it is again fit for cotton. These grounds are tilled in partnership: the proprietor ploughs it the first time; the tenant gives it four subsequent ploughings, and furnishes seed; the expence of the harvest is born equally by both, and the profits halved between them. Hoers earn a carlino a day, and a good ploughman four carlini, or five grana and his victuals.

Casalnuovo is a considerable town, without any buildings of note, except a large baronial mansion in the centre, begun by the late Marquis, and left unfinished at his death. The suite of apartments is grand, but the situation uncomfortable, without garden or prospect. He chose to remove to this place, because the rocky soil affords a solid foundation for a house, and the air is remarkably wholesome; whereas Francavilla is the very reverse, being built on a marshy, unsound soil, where it is even difficult to find a bottom, and all the water has a brackish taste.

This town contains about four thousand inhabitants, noted for nothing but their taste for dogs flesh, in which they have no competitors that I know of, except their neighbours at Lecce, and the newly discovered voluptuaries of Otaheite. We did not see one animal of the canine species in the streets; and woe be to the poor cur that follows



lows its master into this cannibal settlement! I could not prevail upon my conductor to own whether they had any flocks of puppies, as of sheep; or took any pains, by castration or particular food, to fatten and sweeten the dainty before they brought it to the shambles. I have since procured some information on the subject from impartial persons, and find that the people of this neighbourhood are looked upon by the rest of the kingdom as dog-eaters; and that it is certain that, both at Lecce and Casalnuovo, many of the lower sort relish a slice of a well-fed cur. At both places tanners kidnap dogs, and tan their hides into an imitation of Turkey leather, with which they supply the gentlemen of the neighbouring cities, who are nice in their slippers. This demand for false Morocco occasions the slaughter of many dogs, and no doubt the custom of eating their flesh began among the needy tanners: hunger and experience have taught their countrymen to consider the discovery as a very beneficial one. At Bari and Francavilla, horse-flesh is said to be publicly sold in the market; and the tail left on, to shew the wretched purchasers what beast the meat belonged to. The wits among the populace nickname these shambling horses *Caprio ferrato*, i. e. a shod Deer.

The Bailiff of the Manor informed me, that it contained six convents of men and two of women; and that the Belles Lettres flourished extraordinarily; for, besides himself, he could reckon up twelve men of great learning in the place,

## JOURNEY TO TARANTO.

place, who formed an academy; viz. two doctors of physic, two apothecaries, and eight men of the law. A tremendous junto for the poor Dog-eaters! There is neither trade nor manufactures here; the fruits of the earth are consumed on the spot; if any remain above the consumption, they are sent to Taranto for sale.

On this side stood Manduria, a city of the Tarentines, destroyed by Fabius Maximus in the second Punic war. Its coins are said to have been dug up lately, but I never saw any; traces of the old name exist in some fields called Il Campo Mandurino, and in a chapel dedicated to St. Pietro Mandurino. The Casalnuovians being desirous of resuming the original appellation, have lately petitioned the King for leave to quit the name of Casalnuovo, and to take that of Manduria in all public deeds.

At a small distance from the town, the old walls are very discernible, raised several feet above the ground; they are double, except on the south side, where the fortifications appear to have been left incomplete. The outer wall and its ditch measure eight yards in breadth; behind this bulwark is a broad street, and then an inner wall, which together measure fourteen yards. The stones are oblong, laid in courses without mortar, and cut out of the ditch; the rocky stratum, which comes to the surface with very little covering of mould, is a concretion of sea sand and shells: these exuviae of marine bodies, when decomposed by the action of the atmosphere, are converted into a most fertile  
tile



tile soil. It is truly wonderful that such fruitfulness should exist in a country to all outward appearance as destitute of water as Arabia Petræa.

The greatest curiosity here is a well, mentioned by Pliny in his second Book \*. In a field within the ancient inclosure, we descended several steps into a large circular cavern, lighted from above by a spacious aperture; the water comes from the north-west, and may be heard very distinctly under the rock; it issues out with force, and after running along a short channel, loses itself in a round basin by some subterraneous conduits. What excites the admiration of the neighbours, as it did that of their forefathers, is, that at no time the water ever rises or falls above a certain mark; if you throw in as much rubbish as will fill it half-way up, this accession will nevertheless have no effect upon the level; even should you heap up the dirt above the mark, the water will not rise, but remain totally hidden; clear away the mud to the bottom, you will come to a hard smooth floor, without any signs of a chasm for the water to run off by. As too much curiosity, if indulged in examining the construction of this well, might endanger the loss of the only supply of good drinking water in the township, all experiments and removals are strictly forbidden. The rock is of a very porous nature, and the water carried off by a

\* Juxta oppidum Manduriam lacus ad margines plenus, neque exhaustis aquis minuitur, neque infusus augetur.



quick filtration: as the stream is no doubt formed by the overflowings of some underground lake or river coming from the vast reservoirs in the bosom of the Apennines, and has other passages for its discharge, the well is probably filled with the backwater only, and therefore the dirt thrown in must of course prevent the water from entering the basin\*.

\* These estates have since escheated to the Crown, by the death of Michael Imperiali, Prince of Francavilla, without heirs. No collateral heir beyond the third degree of consanguinity is capable of inheriting a fief in the kingdom of Naples.

## TARANTO, and its ENVIRONS.

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### SECTION XXIX.

*May* } **I** LEFT Francavilla, escorted by four well-mounted  
*3d.* } and well-armed guards in the Prince's pay.  
 Every great Baron\* keeps a certain number of trusty determined fellows to protect his vassals, convoy his rents, and prevent depredations on his game and forests; they travel by the side of his coach to defend his person and baggage; but as I was under no apprehension of an attack, I dismissed these attendants as soon as possible, and sending the servants on to Taranto to prepare my reception, sauntered slowly after them, that I might enjoy the pure morning breeze, and examine the country. Near Francavilla the soil is deep, and

\* Our old English Barons had their Rod-knights or Radmen, who held lands of them on the condition of attending their persons in their travels, and going wheresoever they pleased to send them.

cultivated with some degree of neatness; but I saw neither spring nor rivulet. These farms are bounded by extensive wastes, where the rocks are scantily covered with a mossy swarth. At Le Grottaglie, a large village belonging to Cicinelli Prince of Corsi, I arrived at the high plain of Oria, and by a steep descent entered the low one of Taranto; the separation is not gradual, but suddenly made by a barrier of perpendicular rocks, that run from the mountains quite across to the gulf. Le Grottaglie owes its origin to a concourse of inhabitants from many towns and villages laid in ashes by the Saracens; finding no other place of safety, the fugitives took refuge in these grottos and caverns, and by degrees recovering from their dismay, ventured out and built dwellings above ground. By one of those monstrous contradictions, of which the feudal system of Naples affords many examples, the criminal jurisdiction of this lordship appertains to the Archbishop of Taranto, while the civil is vested in its Prince. The people of this town are said to understand the business of a shepherd better than any of their neighbours, among whom their cream-cheeses are in great repute. The country abounds in corn and wine, but of late years they have treated their vines with so little care, that the wine is quite fallen in the public esteem; they make pottery-ware of a red colour, like that of the antique cups, but they fail in the art of tempering the clay, nor can they attain the same degree of lightness and transparency. After riding through a fine tract of orchards, I came in sight  
of



of the Mare Piccolo, or Little Sea, beyond which rises the city of Taranto: the banks that inclose the bay are so gently sloped off as to create no very striking effect; there is a tameness in the prospect not unlike the insipidity of the artificial lakes and elegant swells in our fashionable gardens in England, totally different from the bold beauties of Italian landscape. The country leading down to its verge is wild but agreeable; a shallow soil and mossy turf, covered in many places with tufts of aromatic shrubs, and clumps of Carob trees that appear to be indigenous. Through this heath runs the Cervaro, a small brook of whitish water, that falls into the bay at the north-east corner, believed by some authors to be the Galefus, because it corresponds with the distance of five miles from Taranto assigned by Polybius: an additional proof might be alleged in the epithet *white*, given to the Galefus by Martial, as agreeing with the present state of the rivulet, the waters of which are strongly tinged with the chalky or marly particles of the soil it runs over: this soapy quality may be supposed to have rendered them peculiarly efficacious in purifying and bleaching the fleeces that were washed in them. When Virgil applied the distinctive term *Niger* \* to this stream, he is thought to have alluded to the thick pine groves that then shaded its banks. Propertius, by the following lines addressed to the Mantuan bard,

\* Some commentators read *Piger*.

Tu canis umbrosi subter pineta Galefi  
Thyrfin et attritis Daphnin arundinibus\*.

seems to insinuate, that Virgil composed his Eclogues at Tarentum, or in some neighbouring villa; perhaps the same, where he says, he took lessons of agriculture from Corycius the Illyrian pirate, transported by Pompey to these vallies.

Namque sub Oebaliæ memini me turribus altis,  
Quâ niger, humectat flaventia culta Galefus  
Corycium vidisse senem†.

Whilst I was combining the foregoing circumstances in my mind, and endeavouring to satisfy myself that I was then actually standing on the banks of so celebrated a river, an aged shepherd came up with his flock, and freely entered into conversation: I was glad of an opportunity of learning some particulars concerning the Tarentine sheep, and the commonly received opinion that no white ones would now live in these pastures, because they soon would poison themselves with the leaves of the *sumolo* (a species of hypericum crispum, or St. John's wort of Linnæus's polyadelphia polyanthia), though black sheep may browse upon it with safety; for this reason, it is said, no white sheep are to be seen in the flocks, and no wool but of a black or dark brown colour.

\* Thou singest, under the pine-groves of shady Galefus, the loves of Thyrfis and Daphnis on thy smooth reeds.

† For I remember to have seen the aged Corycius near the lofty towers of Æbalia, where dark Galefus waters the yellow fields.



The old man smiled at my questions, and pointing to many white ewes in his flock, answered, that it was not in consequence of its colour, but of its species, that the animal suffered from those noxious herbs; the *pecore gentili*, or delicate race of sheep, are so much more liable to perish by these and other accidents, than the *pecore moscie*, or *carfagne*, a wilder and coarser breed, that the former kind is almost destroyed.

To explain this matter satisfactorily, it is necessary I should enlarge upon the subject, and recapitulate what we read of the flocks of the ancient Tarentines; the attempts made in latter times to revive the credit of the Puglian wool, with the causes which have defeated the intention, and rendered the scheme abortive. Columella informs us, that the Tarentines crossed their delicate breed with fierce foreign rams of a beautiful tawny colour, and that the fleece of their lambs had the strong glossy hue of the fire, with the downy silkness of the dam. To increase this lustre and softness, they used to buckle round the sheep a sort of leathern coat, which they took off occasionally, lest the beast should suffer from excessive heat; then bathed and soaked the wool in wine and oil, till it was quite saturated with the rich fomentation. Before shearing time, the sheep were washed in the Galefus, and at all seasons penned up in clean folds, and kept free from filth; they were never led out to feed till the sun had dried up the dew, as the spirting of the drops from the grass was apt to give them sore eyes. This  
process,



process, and the silence of the ancients concerning any particular whiteness in the wool of Tarentum, prove how much Sannazar, and other moderns, have confounded times and ideas, in praising it merely for its milky hue. The darkness of colour was by no means a hindrance to the imbibition of a deep purple dye, which was the tint most esteemed by the Tarentines.

After the fall of Rome, a long train of wars and devastation deprived this country of all its acquired advantages, and even operated so direfully upon its climate and productions, as to vitiate those it held of the bounty of nature. When the manufacturers as well as manufactures were destroyed, the prime commodities of course lost their value, and it ceased to be worth the shepherd's while, even had the nicer arts of his calling been handed down to him, to take any pains in preserving a purity of blood, or delicacy of covering in his breed of sheep; those perfections had no longer any admirers or chapmen, and consequently the race very soon degenerated.

Frederick of Suabia took some steps towards retrieving this branch of traffic; but the misfortunes of his family rendered all those projects visionary. The introduction of silkworms from the East by King Roger, proved a fatal check to the demand for fine wool, and the heavy load of taxes imposed upon this commodity by the Angevine Princes, after they had lost Sicily, completed the destruction of the finer breed. On account of their tender constitution, they  
required

required expensive housing and constant attendance to make them turn to profit, and therefore the Puglian shepherds, being from indigence unable to procure such conveniences, abandoned the delicate race, and attached themselves to a rougher variety, which are generally black or brown, hardy, and able to feed with impunity on many plants and species of grass that blind and weaken, if not poison, the Pecore gentili.

The breed was so debased in the fifteenth century, and the farmers reduced to such misery, that Joan the Second chose rather to remit the taxes laid upon wool by her brother, than attempt any method of amelioration, for which she wanted both skill and steadiness.

Alphonfus the First, who had greater views, and was blest with more peace and leisure than his predecessor, resolved to procure for his Neapolitan dominions some of the substantial advantages which his kingdom of Aragon had experienced from an improved breed of sheep, sent as a present to one of his ancestors from a King of England. To obtain this end, he caused a proper number of ewes and rams, the progeny of those English sheep, to be transported into Puglia. Ferdinand the First, ambitious of supporting his father's system, encouraged the woollen manufacture, by inviting workmen from all foreign parts where that trade flourished: but the duties imposed by these two Kings produced ultimately very pernicious effects, for they lay heavy upon the poorer class of farmers, and the sale of wool was not sufficient to indemnify them for losses sustained by bad years and accidents.

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The oppressions of needy and ignorant Viceroys, who were obliged to anticipate and mortgage every revenue to supply the continual demands of the Spanish ministry, increased the evil to such a height, that at last the white breed was entirely forsaken, and at this day the number of Pecore gentili is extremely inconsiderable within the district of Taranto. Very little nicety is now observed in the choice of rams, or in proper crosses, by which means the wool is not so fine as it might be, though it be still of a good quality. Better management and employment of the raw materials at home, might create an inexhaustible fund of wealth for the state. The flesh of the Pecore gentili is more flabby, stringy, tasteless, and therefore cheaper than that of the Moscia; and there is a penalty upon any butcher that shall pass off the mutton of the former for that of the latter.

### S E C T I O N   X X X .

SOON after I left the shepherd, I passed near some rubbish which antiquaries call a remnant of the wall of the Japygians. It was forty miles long, and erected by that ancient people from sea to sea, in order to divide their territories from those of the Messapians. I next reached a delicious vale, called Le Citrezze\*, where a stream rises in a basin about

\* The Tarentines call this the Galefus; D'Anville and Zannoni give that name to a river that discharges itself into the Mare Grand. The spring of the



about three hundred yards from the sea. The waters occasion a perpetual verdure in the meadows, and groves of aged olive trees defend them from the scorching ray, and from all winds but the soft zephyrs that play upon the surface of the Mare Piccolo. I alighted to enjoy the charms of this sweet sequestered spot, and while my eyes ranged over the beautiful landscape, suffered my imagination to wander into a chain of melancholy reflections on the general vicissitudes in the fate of empires, and on the destiny of Taranto in particular. All was then still in that port, where the trading vessels of half the world rendezvoused. One single fishing boat disturbed the bosom of those waters, where the mighty navy of Carthage once displayed its flag. Of all the temples, gymnasia, theatres, and other monuments of glory and opulence, not so much as a single column rises upon the hill where Tarentum once stood: the paultry buildings of some mean convents, inhabited by the most insignificant of friars, mark its ancient situation; while the modern city, crowded into a narrow island, holds the place of the old citadel, and still resembles a fortress more than an emporium of trade. But in despite of this change in its fortunes, the appearance of Taranto is replete with wonderful beauties. At my feet,

<sup>the</sup> Citrezze is deep, and therefore answers Virgil's epithet of black. The very little extent of its course corresponds with the ancient opinion of its being the shallowest of all rivers; but still I cannot understand how so trifling a rill could be deemed a river, and be called Eurotas by the Parthenii from its resemblance to the river of Lacedemon; or how numerous flocks could wander on its banks, and be washed in its waters.

the Mare Piccolo rolled its gentle waves, stretching from east to west, in the shape of an oval lake, divided into two unequal bays by a narrow promontory; olive woods clothe the foreground on both sides, and the opposite hills appear rich in orchards and corn fields. Over the city, the Mare Grande, or outer port, some ships at anchor, islands, capes; and behind, all the blue mountains of Basilicata complete the prospect. A long bridge of seven arches joins the city to the continent on the north side; through them the tide flows with great impetuosity, and nothing now but small boats can be admitted by this passage, which was formerly the entrance of the harbour. But even in the time of the Romans, I think it evident from what Appian says, that there were drawbridges, by which the garrison of the citadel preserved a command over the vessels in port. Had the mouth been quite free, the Tarentine fleet in the second Punic war could not have been so completely blocked up, as to render all attempts to break through utterly fruitless. At each arch is fixed a frame for hanging nets to intercept fish as they run up into the little sea with the flow, or fall back with the ebb; and upon this bridge is carried the aqueduct that supplies the town with water.

*Tolita*  
 Tolita King of the Goths is said to have been the first that erected an aqueduct on this north side; others attribute it to the Emperor Nicephorus. It was built in the present form and direction in 1543. The sources lie twelve miles distant from Taranto in the mountains of *Martina*, where many



many grooves and cuts in the heart of the rock collect the straggling rills and filtrations, and bring them together at a spot called Valdenza; from thence the waters run to Triglio, where they fall into immense reservoirs, and then pass underground to the deep cisterns at Tremiti. At La Follia they rise to-day, and keep an open course for seven miles, till they enter an arcade of two hundred and three arches in very bad repair, overgrown with ivy, and oozing at every joint; the water is conveyed through hollow stones, each of which has a spout that fits into the next.

The shape of Taranto has been likened to that of a ship; of which the castle at the east end represents the stern, the great church the mast, the tower of Raymund Orfini the bowsprit, and the bridge the cable. It stands upon the site of the ancient fortress, but I believe occupies rather more room:—it was formerly joined to the continent by a narrow neck of sand, which occasioned William of Puglia to say, That Tarentum would be an island, but for a small rising ground.

*Insula mox fieret modicus ni collis adesset.*

Ferdinand the First being apprehensive of an attack from the Turks, ordered the isthmus to be cut through, and the sea to be let in. Philip the Second caused the passage to be widened and deepened so as to admit vessels; but it was afterwards choked up with sand and filth, and, by the stagnation of its waters, became a great nuisance. The air of Taranto



ranto was grievously affected by it till 1755, when it was again cleared out by the King's directions. The streets are remarkably dirty and narrow, especially the Marina, which runs along the Mare Piccolo, and is, without dispute, the most disgusting habitation of human beings in Europe, except, perhaps, the Jewish Ghetto at Rome. The only tolerable street is a terrace above the steep rocks that hang over the Mare Grande, and prevent all access on that quarter. The cathedral, dedicated to Saint Cataldus, whom the Legend calls a native of Raphoe in Ireland, has little merit: it is a melancholy consideration, that the chapel of the patron has been decorated at the expence of almost every monument of the ancient city. The granite columns, taken from its ruined fanes, are awkwardly crowded under the ill-proportioned roof of this church. The square near the bridge is the only opening of any extent, and the general resort of the citizens in summer, when they sit round the fountain to enjoy the soft evening breeze, and refresh themselves with the fanning of the balmy air. But modern Taranto cannot boast of that degree of salubrity at all seasons, which rendered the ancient city the delight of voluptuaries and valetudinarians. A failure of cultivation, and of attention towards keeping the passages for water free, causes some degree of malignity in its climate during the hot months; but there is great reason to hope these inconveniencies will be removed by the patriotic and judicious endeavours of the present Archbishop Monsignor Joseph Capecelatro, who  
has

has abandoned the road that leads to the purple, and other objects of ecclesiastical ambition, in order to devote his life and talents to the welfare of his flock, and the improvement of his native country.

I was lodged at the Celestine convent, a neat house, built upon the ruins of a temple. The Prior received me with great politeness, and at supper treated me with the most varied service of shell-fish I ever sat down to. There were no less than fifteen sorts, all extremely fat and flavoury; especially a small species of muscle, the shell of which is covered with a velvet shag, and both inside and outside is tinged with the richest violet colour. I tasted of all, and ate plentifully of several sorts, without experiencing the least difficulty in the digestion.

### SECTION XXXI.

THE day no sooner appeared than my impatience hurried me out of the Porta di Lecce to examine the ruins of Tarentum, a city so often the subject of my most favourite reading, and so truly interesting by its glory and misfortunes. Not to leave any part unobserved for want of method, I directed my steps along the shore of the Mare Grande, which gradually draws off to the south, towards Cape San Vito. The slight remains of an amphitheatre did not detain me long, as the *opus reticulatum* proved it to be Roman



Roman work ; and at that moment my enthusiasm was all directed towards monuments raised by the Tarentines, while they were a free Grecian state, not those they erected in servile compliance with the sanguinary taste of their conquerors. In vain did I run over fields and gardens, and examine with nice attention every stone that had any thing of the venerable appearance of antique workmanship ; to my utter astonishment not a single ruin occurred, scarce a mark was left that such a city ever existed on the spot ! Never was a place more completely swept off the face of the earth than Tarentum. Its splendid annals need be as well authenticated as they are by historians, who had ocular or at least circumstantial evidence of its existence, for us to believe that a rival of Rome once raised her proud towers, and arrayed her numerous armies, along these now lone-some hills. About two miles and a half from the gate, I discovered vestiges of aqueducts, and had some reason to think I had found the point where the city-wall made a returning angle, and crossed the isthmus in a north-west direction, in order to join the Mare Piccolo, leaving an inclosure within, of the form of an equilateral triangle. But, as even ruins were wanting to assist me in my search, it was impossible for me to determine the extent with any degree of certainty. The hints given in the writings of ancient historians are too vague to lead us with any precision to the true topography of the place.



I returned to town by the banks of the Mare Piccolo, a pleasant walk, and most delightful view.

Near the Alcanterine convent is a small hillock, wholly formed of the shells of fish employed by the ancients in the composition of their celebrated purple dye; and not far from it are the remains of some reservoirs and conduits appertaining to the works. My readers may not be sorry to meet with a description of the testaceous fishes that furnished the precious ingredient, and of the methods used in extracting and preparing it, taken from the accounts extant in the classic authors, and the dissertation of modern naturalists.

Purple was procured from two sorts of shell-fish, the Murex and the Purpura, both belonging to the Testacea, or third genus of Linnæus's sixth class.

From the former a dark blue colour was obtained; the latter gave a brighter tint, approaching to scarlet. The body of the animals that inhabit these shells, consists of three parts. The lowest, containing the bowels, remains fixed in the twisted screw at the bottom, for the purpose of performing the digestive functions: it is fleshy, and tinged with the colour of its food. The middle division is of a callous substance, and full of liquor, which, if let out of its bag, will stain the whole animal and its habitation. The third and upper part is made up of the members necessary for procuring food, and perpetuating the race. The Murex generally remains fastened to rocks and stones. The Pur-

pura, being a fish of prey, is by nature a rover, and one of the most voracious inhabitants of the deep. The proper season for dragging for this shell-fish, was in autumn and winter. To come at the liquor, the shell was broken with one smart blow, and the pouch extracted, with the greatest nicety, by means of a hook. If the shells were of a small size, they were thrown by heaps into a mill, and pounded.

The veins being laid in a cistern, salt was strewed over them, to cause them to purge and keep sweet, in the proportion of twenty ounces of salt to a hundred pounds of fish. They were thus macerated for three days; after which the mucilage was drawn off into a leaden cauldron, in order that the colours, by being heated therein, might acquire additional lustre and vivacity, as all marine acids do by a mixture with that metal. To keep the vessel from melting, eighteen pounds of water were added to a hundred and fifty pounds of purple, and the heat given horizontally to the kettle, by means of a flue brought from a furnace. By this process, the fleshy particles were carried off, and the liquor left pure, after about ten days settling.

The dye was tried by dipping locks of wool in it, till they had imbibed a dark blue colour. As the colour of the Murex would not stand alone, the dyers always mixed a proportion of Purpura juice with it. They steeped the wool for five hours; then shook, dried, and carded it; dipped it again and again, till it was saturated with the dye. The proportion requisite for staining fifty pounds of wool with the

the finest deep amethyst colour, were twenty pounds of Murex to a hundred and ten of Purpura. To produce the Tyrian purple, which resembled the colour of congealed blood, it was necessary first to steep the wool in pure un-boiled Purpura juice, and then let it lie and simmer with that of the Murex. By different mixtures of those two dyes, varieties were obtained, according to the changes of fashion, which ran into violet till the reign of Augustus, when it inclined to the Tarentine scarlet; and this soon after made way for the Diabasa Tyria, the most extravagantly dear of all the tints. We read of fleeces being dyed upon the backs of the sheep; but remain in the dark as to the method and advantages of that process.

The Greeks, who were never at a loss for an ingenious fable to cover their ignorance of origins and causes, attributed the discovery of purple to the dog of Hercules, which, in a range along the shore, met with a shell-fish, and greedily crushed it between its teeth. Instantly an indelible purple stained its muzzle, and by this accident suggested the first idea of dying cloth. The art was most undoubtedly practised in times of very remote antiquity. Moses and Homer mention compound colours: the wife of Alcinous is described as spinning wool tinged with marine purple.

Below the ruins of these reservoirs, the shore is thickly strewed with fragments of Etruscan vases, similar in colour and design to those deposited in the cabinets of the curious.



Close by this place, the beach is covered with bits of plain red ones. A little nearer the city is the Argentaria, a bank so called from a tradition of the gold and silver smiths having had their shops there. It still deserves the name, from a number of medals, rings, chains, and other trinkets, that are constantly dug out of it.

## S E C T I O N    XXXII.

I DEVOTED the afternoon to a water party, taking with me one of the oldest and most intelligent of the Tarentine fishermen, to shew me the fishing and spawning places, and explain the different seasons and methods of catching fish. We took boat, and rowed up the southern shore of the Mare Piccolo, with an intention of measuring the whole circumference, which Strabo fixes at one hundred stadia, or twelve English miles and a half. According to my calculation, the circuit of the western part is not more than half as great as that of the eastern one; and both together, by a rough estimate, are about sixteen miles. This increase may be accounted for by the destruction of all the parapets and walls of the old city, the wearing away of the banks, and overflowing of the low grounds. A tide is very perceptible, especially when the moon changes, and still more so at the solstices and equinoxes; but very feeble in comparison of the tides in the ocean: however, it serves to

keep the waters of this land-locked bay sweet, and to bring in caravans of fish, that fatten and breed in its quiet pools. When the Scirocco blows hard, the waves are driven up with great violence, and navigation becomes perilous for small vessels.

The first objects of my curiosity were the beds of Cozzenere, or muscles, the greatest and most constant supply of the market. Their spawn is dropt in the mud. About the twenty-first of March, little muscles begin to rise up, and cling to long stakes driven by the fishermen into the water under the city wall, and in the castle ditch. There they thrive and grow in still water, while the washings of the streets supply them with rich and copious nutriment. In August they are as big as almonds, and are then drawn up with the poles, and sown on the opposite side of the Mare Piccolo, among the fresh-water springs.

About the middle of October they are again dragged up, separated, and scattered over a larger space. In spring, they are brought to market, long before they arrive at their full growth. This haste proceeds from the avidity of the officers of the revenue, who receive a duty of four carlini a cantaro for them, whether old or young.

When a long continuance of heavy rains swells the little streams that discharge themselves into this gulf, the waters become muddy, and these fish are then observed to grow distempered, rotten, and unwholesome. The cause of this malady lies in the noxious fragments of animals, putrid vegetables,



vegetables, oily, bituminous, and sulphureous particles, washed from the earth by the showers. They cut the tender fibres or fingers which the fish stretches out, mistaking them for wholesome food. The wounded parts fester, and poison the whole body. It is an observation made here, and confirmed by long experience, that all the testaceous tribe is fuller, fatter, and more delicate, during the new and full moon, than in the first and last quarters. The difference is accounted for by the tides and currents, which set in stronger in the new and full moon, and bring with them large quantities of bruised fishes, insects, fruits, and other fattening nurture. I was assured that nothing causes fish to spoil sooner than leaving them exposed to the beams of the moon; and that all prudent fishermen, when out by night, cover what they catch with an awning. If they meet with any dead fish on the strand, or in the market, they can always discern, by its colour and flabbiness, if it be *allunato*, moon-struck; and, except in cases of great necessity, abstain from it as unwholesome. Not having an opportunity of verifying this assertion, I give it as doubtful; for I know the Italians are apt to attribute to the baneful influence of the moon many strange effects, which philosophers of other nations do not ascribe to it. No Italian will lie down to sleep, where moonshine can reach him.

The Cozze Pelose, or velvet muscle, is first dragged for in the Great Sea, and then scattered to breed on Sciaie, or heaps



of stones sunk by the fishermen at every head-land of the Mare Piccolo.

Under the Piano, or eastern shore, are the oyster-beds: no coast affords a more exquisite sort. In winter, large hampers of them are sent over land to Naples. The season is confined by law to a term between the 25th of November and Easter Sunday.

Brundisium was the great supplier of oysters for the Roman tables. From that port, the spawn was carried to stock their public reservoirs at the Lucrene Lake, near Baïæ; and no mention is made by the ancients of the excellence of any Tarentine shell-fish except the scallop\*. It is therefore not unlikely that oyster spawn has been brought to Taranto from Brindisi, and better preserved than at the original bed, where the obstructions in the mouth of the harbour have ruined all the fisheries†.

The

\* *Pectinibus patulis jactat se molle Tarentum.*

HOR. Sat.

† I received from my friend, F. Ant. Minasi, the following List of Shell-fish found in the Tarentine waters. He drew it up according to the Linnæan system from a large assortment of specimens, which he was commissioned to class, before they were presented by the Archbishop of Taranto to the Infant Don Gabriel. Had my learned correspondent had an opportunity of visiting those seas, it is more than probable that his piercing and experienced eye would have discovered other species, if not genera, of fishes.

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. <i>Chiton squamosus et cinereus</i>   | 7. <i>Solen ensis</i>       |
| 2. <i>Lepas balanus</i>  | 8. <i>Solen legumen</i>     |
| 3. <i>Lepas anatifera</i>  | 9. <i>Solen strigilatus</i> |
| 4. <i>Lepas testudinaria</i> —altera radiis<br>6, et altera 5.                     | 10. <i>Tellina anomala</i>  |
| 5. <i>Pholas dactylus cum cardine re-</i><br><i>curvato connexoque cartilagine</i> | 11. <i>Tellina carnaria</i> |
| 6. <i>Mya pictorum</i>   | 12. <i>Tellina rostrata</i> |
|  | 13. <i>Tellina Punicea</i>  |
|  | 14. <i>Tellina fragilis</i> |
|  | 15. <i>Tellina</i>          |

The papyraceous Nautilus is sometimes, but very rarely, seen spreading the wonderful mechanism of its sail and oars

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 15. Tellina planata        | 55. Bulla aperta             |
| 16. Cardium aculeatum      | 56. Bulla Naucus             |
| 17. Cardium edule          | 57. Bulla hydatis            |
| 18. Cardium rusticum       | 58. Voluta cancellata        |
| 19. Mastra striatula       | 59. Voluta glabella          |
| 20. Donax trunculus        | 60. Buccinum echinophorum    |
| 21. Venus læta             | 61. Strombus pes pellicani   |
| 22. Venus Paphia           | 62. Strombus lentiginosus    |
| 23. Venus calypige         | 63. Murex saxatilis          |
| 24. Venus deflorata        | 64. Murex reticularis        |
| 25. Spondylus Gæderopus    | 65. Murex costatus           |
| 26. Chama antiquata        | 66. Murex cutaceus           |
| 27. Arca Noë               | 67. Murex pufio              |
| 28. Arca barbata           | 68. Murex cornutus           |
| 29. Anomia ephissium       | 69. Murex erinaceus          |
| 30. Mytilus edulis         | 70. Murex pileare            |
| 31. Pinna nobilis          | 71. Murex triqueter          |
| 32. Argonauta Argo         | 72. Murex fuscatus           |
| 33. Buccinum galea         | 73. Trochus tessulatus       |
| 34. Buccinum maculatum     | 74. Trochus umbilicaris      |
| 35. Buccinum Tritonis      | 75. Turbo cochlus            |
| 36. Echinus Cidaris        | 76. Turbo pullus             |
| 37. Echinus esculentus     | 77. Turbo nodulosus          |
| 38. Echinus saxatilis      | 78. Helix picta              |
| 39. Echinus mamillaris     | 79. Nerita littoralis        |
| 40. Echinus placenta       | 80. Nerita canræna           |
| 41. Serpula anguina        | 81. Nerita rufa              |
| 42. Ostrea edulis          | 82. Halotis Midæ             |
| 43. Ostrea Jacobea         | 83. Patella sinuata          |
| 44. Ostrea bullata         | 84. Patella lutea            |
| 45. Ostrea pufio           | 85. Patella rustica          |
| 46. Ostrea sanguinea       | 86. Patella fusca            |
| 47. Ostrea varia           | 87. Patella pustula          |
| 48. Ostrea lima            | 88. Patella Græca            |
| 49. Ostrea radula          | 89. Dentalium dentalis       |
| 50. Cypræa talpa           | 90. Dentalium corneum        |
| 51. Cypræa lurida          | 91. Serpula arenaria         |
| 52. Cypræa caput serpentis | 92. Serpula vermicularis     |
| 53. Cypræa pediculus       | 93. Serpula contortuplicata. |
| 54. Conus monachus         |                              |

in the smooth bays of the Mare Grande; and sometimes fishermen surprise trumpet-shells of a prodigious bulk asleep, floating on the surface of the water in a sultry day.

Very fine branchy coral is found along the coast east of the city. The places are kept a profound secret. Marks are set up on land, by which the Tarentines steer their course, and sink their hooks and cross-beams exactly in the middle of a coral bed, while strangers must row about the whole day dragging, without a guide, or certainty of bringing up a single twig. There was, a few years ago, such abundance of coral near these shores, that a boat's crew was once known to draw up in one day as much as sold for five hundred ducats (93*l.* 15*s.*). Large pieces may be had for about five ducats *per* rotolo, which at Taranto contains only thirteen ounces.

Under Cape St. Vito, once famous for an abbey of Basilian monks, and in most parts of the Mare Grande, the rocks are studded with the Pinna Marina. This bivalved shell of the muscle tribe frequently exceeds two feet in length. It fastens itself to the stones by its hinge, and throws out a large tuft of silky threads, which float and play about to allure small fish: amidst these filaments is generally found, besides other insects, a small shrimp, called by the ancients, Cancer Pinnotheres, by the modern Tarentines, Caurella. This little crustaceous animal was imagined to be generated with the Pinna, and appointed by nature to act as a watchman, in apprizing it of the approach

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of



of prey or enemies; and that, upon the least alarm, this guard flipt down into the shell, which was instantly closed: but more accurate observers have discovered, that the poor shrimp is no more than a prey itself, and by no means a centinel for the muscle, which in its turn frequently falls a victim to the wiles of the *Polypus Octopodia*. In very calm weather, this rapacious pirate may be seen stealing towards the yawning shells with a pebble in his claws, which he darts so dexterously into the aperture, that the Pinna cannot shut itself up close enough to pinch off the feelers of its antagonist, or save its flesh from his ravenous tooth. The Pinna is torn off the rocks with hooks, and broken for the sake of its bunch of silk called *Lanapenna*, which is sold, in its rude state, for about fifteen carlini a pound, to women that wash it well with soap and fresh water. When it is perfectly cleansed of all its impurities, they dry it in the shade, straiten it with a large comb, cut off the useless root, and card the remainder; by which means they reduce a pound of coarse filaments to about three ounces of fine thread. This they knit into stockings, gloves, caps, and waistcoats; but they commonly mix a little silk as a strengthener. This web is of a beautiful yellow brown, resembling the burnished gold on the back of some flies and beetles. I was told that the *Lanapenna* receives its gloss from being steeped in lemon juice, and being afterwards pressed down with a taylor's goose.

S E C-

## SECTION XXXIII.

THE seas of Taranto are as copiously stocked with the scaly and finny tribe, as with the crustaceous and testaceous. The quantity and varieties are very considerable; but fish caught in the lesser sea bears the highest price, as surpassing in delicacy and firmness that taken in the larger. This is contrary to what we experience in other countries, and must be owing to some peculiar quality in the water and situation; for, in general, fish found in still bays, and near the shore, is inferior in taste to that which is captured farther out, and in places where the currents beat it about, and seem to keep it firm and wholesome by constant motion\*.

The

\* I do not pretend to be acquainted with every sort of fish brought to this market, as at least a year's stay on the spot would be requisite to acquire that knowledge; but it may be a satisfaction to many Readers to have a List of trivial names, such as it was roughly made out to me by the fishermen, and since compared with some imperfect catalogues I have had a sight of.

<i>Tarentine Name.</i>	<i>Latin Name.</i>	<i>Tarentine Name.</i>	<i>Latin Name.</i>
Aguglia	Sudis	Fraio	
Anguilla	Anguilla	Faloppæ	
Arciola		Gugione	Gobio
Alice	Halex	Gosciolo	Mormyris
Abraiz	Rhombus	Linguatole	Solea
Cefalo	Mugil	Lutrino	Rubellio
Castaudielli	Acus	Lucerna	Lucerna
Calamaïs	Loligo	Murena	Murena
Cheppia	Thryssa	Minchiarello	
Culinudi	Engraulis		Mullus
Dentice	Dentatus	Mosa	

The people of Taranto depend upon their fishery for subsistence, and pay very heavy duties to the Crown, and rents to private persons, for the right of fishing. The king receives from them annually three thousand seven hundred and thirty-five ducats (700*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*) for rent, and five thousand four hundred and thirty ducats (1018*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*), for the exclusive privilege. They purchase the beds for shell-fish of monasteries and individuals, at the yearly expence of six thousand one hundred and sixty-eight ducats (1160*l.* 13*s.*); and besides, all fish sold to be carried out of the city is subject to a toll, farmed out at five thousand six hundred and fifteen ducats (1052*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*) a year. An old register book called *Il Libro Rosso*, kept with great care and veneration in the custom-house, points out the

<i>Tarentine Name.</i>	<i>Latin Name.</i>	<i>Tarentine Name.</i>	<i>Latin Name.</i>
Mazzoni	Afellus	Scorfano	Scorpio
Orato	Aurata	Samagliastro	Sargus
Occhiata	Melanurus	Seccia	Sæpia
Orva		Sarde	Chalcis
Polpo	Polypus	Spigola	Lupus
Palamiti	Pelamydes	Sario	Saurus
Pesce zaffiro	Scarus	Sparitielli	Sparulus
Pesce spada	Xiphias.*	Traulo	Lacerta
Ruonghi	Conger	Tonno	Thynnus †
Ricciola	Glaucus	Tremola	Torpedo
Storione	Acipenser	Triglia	
Spina		Vopa	Boops
Soliola		Urigoli	Chelones.
Sarpa	Piscis virgatus		

\* This fish seldom makes its appearance so far north.

† No Tunny fishery is allowed here, lest that boisterous fish should be driven up into the little sea, and there disturb and destroy the small fry.



proper season for each species of fish, the method of propagating them, the nets allowed, and the duty to be exacted. The directors of the customs are very alert and rigorous in enforcing these regulations. They take care to clean the spawning places, and weed the mouths of the rivers that empty their waters into the Mare Grande. They rent those streams of the Barons in order to complete the monopoly, and prevent any disturbance being given to the fish at improper times.

To return to my tour, which the fish had caused me to lose sight of, we passed under the banks of the Piano, where the ancients kept their wines in grottos called Diulos. The mouths of these excavations are now almost closed up with rubbish. Some persons crept in lately, and found the floor strewn with fragments of Amphore. During the canicular season, there issues in the night-time from these caverns a most impetuous piercing wind.

From the Piano we rowed to the mouth of the Cervaro, and from thence to the promontory of Penna, which divides the little sea into two unequal bays. As something like the foundations of piers may be observed under water, it has been supposed by some authors that a bridge formerly existed, reaching from this cape to the Pizzone in the old city. It is possible there may have been a boom laid across for greater security, or a passage made for the convenience of the citizens; but it is clear from Strabo, that anciently the port was shut up with a bridge in the very place where

we now see one. He says that the harbour is \* closed up with a large bridge; a line drawn from the Penna would only secure half of it, and no efforts of the Romans could have confined the Tarentine gallies, had not the garrison of the citadel been in possession of strong works and draw-bridges at the mouth of the harbour, which effectually commanded the passage.

Not far from the Penna is the Citrello, a space of thirty-five yards by eight; where four strong springs and several small ones of fresh water force their way up, and preserve their sweetness amidst the brine of the waves. Shoals of fish may be seen swimming over these *Occhi* or fountains, as it were to cool and cleanse themselves. These boilers are only a continuation of the spring that produces the brook of the Citrezze.

From hence we passed under the bridge, where the current sets in very strong, and in boisterous weather the navigation is hazardous. On the left hand, near the city wall, lies the shipping in tolerable safety, notwithstanding the great expanse of the Mare Grande. The force of the waves is broken by the islands of Santa Pelagia and St. Andrew, the shelves called *Pietre Sizzose*, and the two capes which complete the circle. Those islands were known to the ancients by the name of *Electrides* or *Chærades*; and if we may judge by some ruins still discernible near the water, were certainly inhabited. At present their only inhabitants are rab-

\* Κλειόμενος.

bits that burrow in the sand, and under the bushes, with which their whole surface is overgrown. In 1594 Cicalà Baffa anchored at St. Pelagia for several days, to the great terror of all the people along the coast. The intelligence he received of the country being alarmed, and troops marching to give him a warm reception, determined him to weigh anchor, and sail for Turkey, without attempting to land.

I rode next morning into the country to see how far its actual fertility came up to the idea ancient authors have left us of it, and returned satisfied, that nature is still ready to shew the same partiality, when called upon by the same industry and arts that tend to facilitate and improve her efforts. The early season of the year prevented my forming any judgment of the fruits of the earth. Columella, Pliny, and Macrobius speak highly of the pears of Tarentum, and praise its figs, chestnuts, walnuts, and ambrosial almonds. At present the most delicate of its figs is the Neapolitan, a small black sort that hangs on the tree till January.

The farmers take great care of their olive-trees; they manure and water the roots, plough the ground about them, and sow it with corn, but never with oats; the stubble is cut off close, and swept away, to make room for the fruit to fall, but is never set on fire for fear of damaging the trees; the boughs are not beaten, but the olives gathered.

The vines, which are kept low and upon pales, are the most healthy and vigorous I ever beheld; the wine is carried in skins as in the days of paganism, when it was a religious ceremony, as well as a gambol, to tumble over



the oiled leathern budget. I tasted no wine at Taranto that pleased my palate, or deserved any commendation. Horace's Amicus Aulon, which critics have transported to every hill within ten miles of Taranto, nay even so far as Castelvetero in Calabria, seems to have been about six miles from the present town to the east, at a part of the coast where a well-watered valley, full of orange and other fruit-trees, is sheltered from every rude blast by an amphitheatre of low eminences, most happily adapted to the growth of the vine.

The arable lands are well cultivated, and produce wheat, oats, barley, and cotton in great abundance, and of an excellent sound quality. The cotton manufacture employs those poor Tarentines who are not able to follow the profession of fishermen. The wages of a labourer in the fields is a carlino a-day. The usual method is to divide the crop equally between the owner of the land and the farmer that tills it; but the extent of waste grounds is immense, and whatever pains may be bestowed upon corn land, nobody here has an idea of doing any thing to improve pastures or meadows;—not a seed is sown, weed destroyed, or barren bush grubbed up.

The honey I tasted was so good, that I may affirm no degeneracy is perceptible among the modern bees of Taranto; and that the poet might still compare their produce to that of the bees of Hymettus\*.

\* —Ubi non Hymetto  
Mella decedunt.——

## SECTION XXXIV.

A SITUATION, blest with so delicious a climate, and so fine a haven, must have attracted the early notice of the Eastern navigators, who, like Columbus, Drake, and Cook, of modern times, sailed from home in quest of new worlds and unexplored coasts. Some of them, no doubt, ventured up the Adriatic, in hopes of discovering unopened sources of wealth, and commodious settlements for the colonies, which excess of population obliged the mother country to send forth. Let us consider Taras in the light of another Cortez; but, instead of making him the captain of a troop of bigoted assassins, let us suppose him to have headed a set of civilized, humane men, desirous of procuring a good establishment in a strange country, but unwilling to cement the foundations of their new state with the blood of the natives. The wisdom and moderation of the adventurers gain the affections of the native savages, and a sense of mutual interest unites them both into one body. The chief of the new-comers passes in time for a being of godlike race, and his companions are too sensible of the utility of the deception, not to encourage the belief. All leaders of maritime expeditions, and indeed all rulers of nations dwelling near the sea, were, in the oriental figura-

tive language of those ages (whose most simple expressions are complete riddles for us), denominated Sons of the Ocean, of Neptune, or of some other marine Deity. Vessels of a large size bore the name of some monster of the deep, or formidable quadruped of the earth. Europa's Bull was a ship of the first magnitude; Phryxus's Ram was one of the second rate; and we may presume that the Dove, sent by Jason to survey the passage of the Dardanelles, was a light skiff, proper for discovery; the Dolphin on the coins of Tarentum, with the naked man sitting upon its back, was perhaps struck in remembrance of Taras and his ship. There seems to be very little reason for imagining that Arion is represented by the figure with a lyre in its hand. It was indeed on his passage from hence to Lesbos that he was thrown overboard, and taken up by a dolphin, or a ship of that name; but we cannot suppose that the Tarentines were very eager to perpetuate the memory of an event that redounded so little to their honour.

About a century before the siege of Troy, a colony of Cretans founded Uria, and obtruded themselves upon the Tarentines, who, after a long contest, were obliged to admit them into their society.

In the twenty-first Olympiad, so powerful a body of emigrants arrived under Phalanthus from Laconia, that it may almost be called a second foundation. This general was marked, from the first moment of his existence, for an outcast and an adventurer. He and all his followers were



the spurious issue of the Spartan women, whose husbands, on marching against Messenæ, had made a vow not to return to their families till they had subdued their enemies. The war drawing out to a much greater length than they had imagined, these warriors began to be apprehensive lest the race of fighting citizens should become extinct, on the failure of that generation. In order to preserve their oath inviolate, and yet save the commonwealth from dissolution, they sent back all such as had joined the army after the first campaign, to keep the women company. The offspring of these temporary unions were called Parthenii; and, when grown up, were driven out to seek their fortunes in distant climes. Being received into Tarentum, they acquired a superiority over the natives, new-modelled the government upon an aristocratical plan, enlarged the fortifications, and transformed the city into a mere copy of Sparta. The very places were new-named; and among others, the Galesus took the name of Eurotas.

Most of the nobles having perished in a war with the Japyges, democracy was introduced. About the seventieth Olympiad, the Pythagorean philosophy gained a footing at Tarentum, and worked wonders in polishing the manners, opening the understanding, and enlarging the ideas of this people, who were naturally disposed to traffic, arts, and sciences. The improvements of its trade was the grand object that engaged the attention of its legislators. They knew full well, that to the fostering influence of commerce,

as much as to success in military exploits, Egypt, Phœnicia, and Greece owed the very transcendent degree of glory and power which they had attained. Every nerve was therefore strained to excite emulation in the citizens, to create a maritime force, to allure traders to the mart, and to render the city a central point of traffic for all parts of the mercantile world. The nature of its situation seconded their endeavours; for no place lay more conveniently for the trade of Italy, Illyricum, Greece, Asia, and Africa, than Tarentum. We must consider that, to most of the ancient mariners, the Mediterranean was an ocean; Spain, a Peru; Tyre, and some other states on the sea-coast, what Britain and Holland have been since, the great maritime powers; while Egypt and Persia were the type of the present formidable inland monarchies. In all the long range of shore from Rhegium to Sipontum, Tarentum was the only port where vessels fly for refuge in tempestuous weather. Brundisium is not supposed to have existed at so early a period; and Croton was no better than a road where ships could not venture to lie in winter. Every department of the Tarentine government had an eye to commerce; and even its religious games and feasts were instituted to encourage barter, and attract strangers. In process of time, when abuses crept into the administration of affairs, and giddy pleasure with unmeaning riot took the place of politic amusement, it was remarked that the Tarentine calendar contained more festivals than there were days in the year.

The

The same thing may be said of modern Rome, where no day passes without bringing with it the feast of a patron, anniversary of the consecration of a church, or removal of some relic, if not several the same day, exclusive of general processions and solemnities. The different complexion of the two religions prevents the modern feasts from degenerating into as much gaiety and intemperance as those of Paganism.

With their wealth, the power of the Tarentines rose above that of all the colonies of Magna Græcia; their land-forces were estimated at thirty-two thousand foot and three thousand horse\*, in constant pay; the number of citizens amounted to three hundred thousand†, and thirteen considerable cities acknowledged their dominion; at sea their fleets rode triumphant and unrivalled. The most brilliant epocha of their history was during the government of Archytas, whose profound learning as a philosopher, and skill as a mechanician, were no clog upon his political abilities. His virtues were of the noblest kind, exalted to as great sublimity of excellence as the plain morality of the law of nature is capable of attaining. He is said to have invented many useful instruments, and to have improved upon those already known. He frequently led the Taren-

\* The horse and rider so frequent on the coins of this republic allude, perhaps, to the great dexterity of the Tarentines in horsemanship. They went to battle with two horses to each cavalier, who, when one fell or grew fatigued, vaulted upon the other.

† The present city does not contain above eighteen thousand souls.



tines to battle, and always returned crowned with fresh laurels. To strengthen the sinews of the Grecian confederacy, he appointed general assemblies to be held at Heraclea, a dépendence of Tarentum, where every thing relative to the common interest might be discussed and determined. He appears to have been murdered in some civil commotion, and his body thrown into the sea.

With Archytas ended the true prosperity of his country. In the one hundredth Olympiad, luxury and corruption had gained such power as to pervert all original good principles, both of morals and government; to enervate the minds and bodies of the citizens, and thereby to expose the republic, feeble and defenceless, to the insults of the hardy Barbarians that surrounded it. The liberal arts did not flourish the worse for this degeneracy; luxury and softness of manners are as favourable to their advancement, as a rich mellow soil is to the vegetation of a beautiful flowering plant. Though the rude conquerors of the Tarentines have deprived us of the sight of their admirable performances in painting, sculpture, and architecture, we may still form an idea of the exquisiteness of their taste by their coins\*. The number of learned men born at Tarentum,  
or

\* Nummi Tarentorum.

AUR. 1. Caput muliebre comptis capillis, delphines duo, ΤΑΡΑΣ.=Puer nudus equo insidens supra volitante victoria, delphin, sydus ΣΑ.

2. Cap. puellæ cum monili Ε ΤΑΡΑΝΤΙΝΩΝ.=Puer nudus delphinum inequitans extensâ dexterâ delphinum, lævâ tridentem tenens ΤΑΡΑΣ.

3. Cap.

or educated in its schools, is a sufficient proof of the esteem in which science and polite literature were held. Aristoxe-

nus

3. Cap. imb. laureatum.=Aquila TAPANTIN.
4. Cap. imb. laur. delphin ΣΑ ΤΑΡΑΣ.=Hercules cum leone decertans, arcus KN.
5. Cap. gal. NI.=Noctua apertis alis insistens fulmini.
6. Cap. imb. pelle leoninâ tectum.=Juvenis nudus delph. ineq. dext. extensâ diotam, lævâ hastam tenens ΤΑΡΑΣ.
7. Cap. imb. tectum pelle leoninâ.=Bigæ aurigante Neptuno dext. habenas læ. tridentem. ΤΑΡΑΝΤΙΝΩΝ.
8. Cap. Jovis barbat. laur. fulmen.=Aquila alis expansis fulm. inf. ante avem Pallas hastâ minax ΤΑΡΑΝΤΙΝΩΝ.
9. Cap. imb. laur. Π.=Aquila fulm. inf. ΤΑΡΑΝΤΙΝΩΝ ΑΡ.
10. Cap. Minervæ gal. ΤΑΡΑΝΤΙΝΩΝ.=Victoria in cūtru à duob. delphinibus. trac. ΝΙΚ.

ARG. 1. Mulier æquo inf. ΦΙ-ΦΙΛΗΜΕΝΟΣ.=Homo delp. inf. d. tripodem. f. trid. cap. bovinum ΤΑΡΑΣ.

2. Eques ΣΥ-ΛΥΚΙΝΟΣ.=Homo delp. inf. d. trid. l. pallium noctua ΤΑΡΑΣ.

3. Cap. mul. diad.=Mulier equo inf. ΤΑ cornucopiæ, delphin.

4. Cap. mul. diad.=mul. equo inf. delphin. dimidium capræ ΤΑ.

5. Eques.=Homo nud. delp. inf. ΤΑΡΑΣ.

6. Eques.=Homo nud. del. inf. facem tenens Σ.

7. Eques.=Homo delp. inf. tridentem ten. subt. undæ Κ. ΤΑΡ.

8. Eques tripus ΣΑΛΛΑ ΣΩ.=Mulier colum. ten. delp. inf. ΤΑΡΑΣ.

9. Eques galeatus cum clypeo et hasta.=Mulier delp. inf. velata d. botrum l. colum. ΤΑΡΑΣ ΑΜΟ.

10. Eques hominem calcans.=Homo supra delp. genu flexo nixus clyp. ten. ΤΑΡΑΣ. ΝΟΣ.

11. Duo equites, alter cum clava, alter cum lanceâ ΞΕΝΟΦΙΛΛΑ.=Homo delp. inf. cum clypeo d. victoriolam, l. duogacula ΙΩ.

12. Concha.=Homo delp. inf. d. sacculum l. tridentem ΤΑΡΑΣ.

13. Cap. Palladis.=Hercules infans duos serpentes suffocans. ΤΑ.

14. Cap. mul.=Hercules leonem trucidans.

15. Cap. Jovis.=Delphin.

16. Eques, victoriâ equum ducente.=Homo delp. inf.

17. Homo delp. inf.=Equus marinus.

18. Cap.

nus is, I believe, the only author of whose works even a fragment has been preserved. He was a philosophical writer upon music, for which he seems to have felt extraordinary enthusiasm, as he asserts that the essence of the human soul is harmony.

## SECTION XXXV.

**A**BOUT three hundred years before Christ, the Tarentine republic, conscious of the effeminacy and incapacity of its own citizens, began to employ foreign generals and mercenary troops to fight its battles. Being hard pressed by the Lucanians, the Tarentines called to their aid Alexander King of Epirus, who secured them against the enterprizes of those barbarians at the expence of his own life. Fifty-seven years after his death, Pyrrhus, also King of Epirus, came over to defend them against the Romans. That ambitious people had levelled almost all the barriers that

18. Cap. Minervæ.=Noctua TAP.

19. Cap. Cereris TAPΑΣ.=Eques hastam vibrans.

20. Vir nudus equo inf. cap. rad. hast. vib. API.=Vir delp. inf. d. vas. s. temonem. TAPΑΣ. KA. EP.

21. Eques hast. vib.=Vir delp. inf. cum victoriola hasta et clypeo.

22. Eques victoriam calcans.=Vir delp. inf. EOP.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Herculis.=Eques A. Γ.

2. Cap. mulieb.=Concha. delphin.

3. Cap. imb.=Delphin.

4. Figura delph. inf. d. cor. l. cornuc.=Concha.

5. Caput. barb. diad. Π.=Piscis.



protected the soft Tarentine nation, and nothing was wanting but a tolerable pretext for commencing hostilities, which could not fail to add these rich coasts to their other usurpations. Rome had never shewn herself very scrupulous or nice in the choice of her reasons for assaulting a neighbour; but, on the present occasion, Tarentum furnished her with a cause of war, which, if we may trust the very suspicious testimony of the Latin historians, would be deemed sufficiently weighty by the most rigid casuist. A Roman fleet bringing corn from Apulia, and passing within sight of Tarentum, was attacked by the inhabitants of that city, the ships destroyed, and the crews massacred. The ambassadors, sent to demand satisfaction, were treated with the utmost indignity, and the resentment of the Romans set at defiance. But if we pay proper attention to what we read in Livy and Dionysius Halycarnassæus, we shall discover something that may clear the Tarentines; I will not say of the guilt of misbehaving to persons usually accounted sacred, but at least of having been wantonly the aggressors. By a treaty entered into some years before, the Romans had engaged not to navigate to the north of the Lacinian Cape, or interfere with the commerce of the Adriatic. A Roman consul had rejected with scorn the mediation of the Tarantines in behalf of the Samnites; and the emissaries of Rome had fomented insurrections among the subjects of Tarentum. Whichsoever of the parties might have justice on its side, it is but too obvious, that the weight of

power preponderated in favour of Rome; therefore the only resource of her foe was to seek defenders wherever money could purchase them, since the degeneracy of the citizens of Tarentum had deprived them even of the idea of becoming soldiers themselves. Pyrrhus, the first Grecian general of the age, was the person applied to. Attracted by avaricious and ambitious motives, he landed in Italy, and defeated the Romans in two engagements; but finding the war likely to prove too heavy a burden for his shoulders, and his government irksome to the people he came to fight for, he seized a frivolous pretence, and sailed to Sicily, which he also abandoned for similar reasons. He returned to Tarentum; but being defeated by Curius Dentatus near Beneventum, stole away to Greece, and left his allies to make the best terms they could with the victor. The Tarentines, roused from their lethargy by despair and the approach of danger, continued for some time to make an obstinate defence. They even persuaded the Carthaginians to send a fleet to their succour; but being at length obliged to yield to the superior force of Rome, they experienced the mildest treatment at her hands, were ranked in the number of her allies, and suffered to govern themselves by their own laws, under the control of a Roman garrison.

We hear no more of the Tarentines till Hannibal penetrated into their country, and by the assistance of Philemenes surprised their city. Livius, the Roman Governor, remained in possession of the citadel and entrance of the port,  
by

by which means the Tarentine fleet was blocked up and rendered useless. But the active genius of the African general was not to be cramped by apparent difficulties. He caused the galleys to be brought ashore, placed upon carriages and rollers, and thus drawn over the isthmus, through the city, into the outer bay, where he astonished the enemy with the appearance of a formidable fleet. This naval armament, under Democrates, defeated the Roman convoy off Croton.

It is a doubt among antiquaries which is the place where the ships were hauled over. The expressions of Polybius appear to indicate the hollow of the present ditch or cut made by Ferdinand the First, as it answers to the space between the wall and rampart erected by Hannibal, to prevent the Romans from falling out of the citadel upon the town. Gonfalvo de Cordova did the very same thing in the same place. A similar expedient was practised by Dragut, a Turkish admiral, in escaping from the Genoese galleys of D'Oria, who had blocked him up in one of the bays of Greece.

The weakness and disunited councils of Carthage having obliged Hannibal to evacuate Italy, his allies were left at the mercy of a republic not always prone to clemency. But, before the departure of the African chief, Fabius Maximus had retaken Tarentum by the treachery of the garrison, and plundered it of an immense treasure.



From this period Tarentum ceased to be known in the world as a state of any political importance. The tide of commerce was insensibly averted into other channels, and its history, as well as its citizens, sunk into an inglorious obscurity ; perhaps a happier situation than it had ever enjoyed during the most shining periods of its annals. It retained a great amenity of manners, the effect of Greek institutions, mild climate, and fertile soil, where no very rough exertions were required to earn a subsistence, and where the very air seemed to breathe the softness of its own character into the souls of all the inhabitants. From the descriptions and encomiums of Horace, we may judge how high an opinion the ancients had of its temperature.

A Roman colony was sent hither ; but this city appears to have returned very speedily to the state of a municipium, governed by its own laws and usages, under the obligation of furnishing to the Roman navy a certain quota of ships. The liberty it enjoyed must have been very ample ; for it was looked upon in the light of a Greek city, where Roman exiles might reside, as in a foreign country ; a privilege it enjoyed in common with Naples.

In the Augustan age, it still retained the Grecian manners and language ; though, except Rhegium and Naples, all the rest of Magna Græcia had lost every trace of the features of its mother-country, utterly obliterated by an intercourse with barbarians. In the fourth century after Christ, Tarentum yielded to the same baneful influence,  
and

and the language of Homer ceased to be the vulgar tongue ; but Greek no doubt gained a superiority over Latin, during the tenth and eleventh ages, while Puglia obeyed the Emperors of the East. Its final banishment was the consequence of the Norman conquest.

The destruction of Tarentum's independence appears to have caused an early emigration of its citizens. Their numbers were so reduced about the time of Augustus, that the greatest part of the old inclosure was deserted, and most of the inhabitants settled near the castle. Here they laid out their forum, in which they placed a colossal statue of Jupiter, of a size inferior only to that of the Rhodian Apollo, and the only memorial left them of the splendour of their ancient commonwealth.

This situation near the citadel, was of particular advantage to the Tarentines, in securing them from the inroads of the Goths, who, being destitute of a maritime force, could make no attack but on the land quarter.

After the death of Constant the Second, in 668, Romuald, Duke of Benevento, conquered this province ; and the Greek Patrician, who had hitherto resided at Tarentum, removed his tribunal to Reggio. On the decline of the Lombard power, the Grecian emperors recovered possession of this country, and kept it till Robert Guiscard drove them for ever out of Italy.

In the year 927, or in the preceding century (for the chronology of those times is miserably confused), the Sara-



cens or Hungarians destroyed the city of Tarentum; but its situation rendered it of too much consequence not to be speedily rebuilt. It was probably on this re-establishment that the desertion of the old site was completed. Nicephorus built the bridge, and made the Marina, for the purpose of securing the entrance of the haven, and affording more space for building within the walls.

Duke Robert, the Norman, after the total expulsion of the Greeks, created his son Bohemund Prince of Taranto; on the failure of whose issue, it was bestowed on Henry, son of King Roger; and afterwards on William, a bastard of that King. From him William the First resumed it, as being too great an appanage for an illegitimate branch of the royal family. It was part of the fortune of Manfred of Swabia, who long bore the title of Prince of Taranto. The principality was next conferred by Charles the Second upon his son Philip, titular Emperor of Constantinople, whose daughter, and at length sole heiress, carried it into the house of Baux. This family soon failed, and Raymund Orsini, a younger son of the Earl of Nola, obtained it. He had raised his fortune by his own adventurous valour; and, taking advantage of the circumstances of the times, assumed an almost absolute and independent sway over the coast of Puglia. Upon his death, his son was stripped of all his possessions by King Ladislaus, who, by marrying Raymund's widow, made himself at length master of Taranto, the only place that stood out in defence of the infant proprietor.

Queen



Queen Joan the Second gave it to her husband, the Earl of La Marche; but he, being in distress for money to carry him out of the kingdom, when he fled from his wife, sold the principality to John Anthony Orfino Balzo, the right owner. This Prince, who was a very powerful Baron, made a great figure in the troubles that attended the first establishment of the Aragonian Kings, and became almost an independent sovereign. On his demise without issue, Taranto escheated to the Crown. Ferdinand the First made it a provision for his second son Frederick; after whose expulsion Taranto ceased to be feudal. It is now no longer even the shadow of that proud democratical republic, which dared to cope with Rome; nor is it the princely seat of a tyrannical feudatory. Poor and languishing, both as to trade and manufactures, it soothes its vanity with the consciousness of regal immunities, and immediate vassalage under the King.

The inhabitants neglect the culture of their fields, and turn all their attention to fishing; a profession hampered with fewer incumbrances, less continual labour, and affording greater certainty of success. Their lands are cultivated, their corn reaped, by Calabrians; their pastures covered with Abruzzese sheep and shepherds; while the modern Tarentines, as much at least as their poverty will allow them, seem to copy the gentle, indolent manners of their forefathers, citizens of *Molle Tarentum*. They are still passionately fond of amusements, and eager only in the  
pursuit

purſuit of pleaſure. Their addreſs is affable, and pleaſing to ſtrangers; their pronounciation liſping, and ſofter than that of the natives of the neighbouring provinces. Here women bring forth children with little difficulty; and treat as a ſlight inconvenience thoſe dangers and pains, which are ſo dreadful to their ſex in moſt other countries. Here it is impoſſible to cite an inſtance of a perſon's dying in childbed.

## J O U R N E Y

FROM

TARANTO TO REGGIO.

## SECTION XXXVI.

ON the sixth of May, I hired a guide, and proceeded on my journey towards Calabria. About four miles from Taranto we crossed a river, supposed by some geographers to be the Taras. It runs through marshes and thickets of tall reeds, is deep, and much resorted to by wild boars, who in summer descend in droves to cool themselves and wallow in the mud. If disturbed, they swim across; but soon return, unless it prove a very wet autumn, and then they retire up to the drier woods on the banks of the Bradano.

N n

We



We rode all day along the sea shore, between the beach and an immense forest of low pitch-pines; the underwood, juniper. At the mouth of the Lieto, the sea runs a great way up into the land, and forms salt-ponds, which in summer exhale infectious vapours; in May, they were only beautiful objects in this wild and grand view of wood and water. The whole soil is sandy, and bears evident marks of its having been lately recovered from the sea, either by the voluntary recession of the watery element, or by the accumulation of earth hurried down in floods from the high lands. At the river Bradano\* we left the province of Otranto, and entered that of Basilicata. It was also the boundary of ancient Lucania, and indeed of Italy; for in very early times that name was confined to the country south of this limit.

After a long but agreeable ride of twenty-four miles, we stopped at Torre di Mare, a poor place near a ruinous tower, built by the Angevine kings, as a safe-guard to the coast; but, by the retreat of the sea, now at such a distance from it, as no longer to serve that end. The waste round it is fenny, damp, and unwholesome. After dinner we ferried over the Basiento†, whereon Octavius Cæsar and Mark Antony had an interview, brought about by the generous mediation of Octavia. These triumvirs came with their troops to opposite banks of the river. Antony jumped

\* Antiently Bradanus.

† Anciently the Metapontus, or Casuentum.

into

into a boat, and pushed off unattended towards the other side; but Cæsar met him, in another skiff, half-way, and, after mutual endeavours to shew excessive confidence in each other, Antony was persuaded to give up the point, and suffer Cæsar to accompany him to Tarentum, where they were to agree upon a plan for settling the Roman empire\*.

Near the mouth of this river, some columns, rising out of the sandy hillocks, mark the situation of Metapontum. These pillars of coarse marble stand in two rows, which are about eighty feet asunder, ten in one row, and five in the other; their diameter five feet, their height fifteen, the interstices ten. Part of the architrave is all that remains of the entablature. They are of the ancient Doric order, tapering regularly with a large cyathiform capital†, and no base but a kind of plinth that belongs to the whole row. They are channelled into twenty sharp deep flutes, now much corroded by the salt spray, and the action of the air.

This style of architecture has something in it solemn and majestic, adapted to the dignity of divine worship, or the gravity of an assembly of senators. Were I to build a city,

\* Alberti places this meeting on the Bradano; Joan. Juvenis, on the Tara. But, as Appian expressly says it was on the river of Metapontum, it can be no other than the Basiento.

† I cannot convey to the reader a clearer idea of the shape of this cup-form capital (which is to be seen at Pæstum, Segesta, Selinunte, Syracuse, Girgenti, and St. Peter ad vincula in Rome), than by comparing it to a shallow bowl, covered with a thin square stone.

I should appropriate this noble order to the great churches, town-hall, and exchange, whilst I embellished the palaces and theatres with the gay Corinthian. I do not allow the same august appearance to the modern Doric, which is much lighter, and more properly enriched with ornaments.

These are all the vestiges of Metapontum, a city once admirably calculated by situation for attaining the species of prosperity that seems to have been the end constantly proposed by its citizens, viz. opulence arising from agriculture and exportation of corn. It stood on the skirts of a plain twenty-five miles in length, which, two thousand years ago (when Metapontum was in the zenith of its respectable, because most innocent, glory), was well peopled, full of towns and villages, attentively cultivated and fertilized, not desolated by the waters, as they were then confined to proper channels. The rich crops that waved upon its surface, were the basis on which this colony of Pylians grounded their power and importance. The honour they attached to the profession of husbandman, and the fruitfulness of their territory, are attested by their coins\*, marked with

\* Nummi Metapontorum.

AUR. 1. Cap. mulieb. spicis redim. = Spica-figura virilis META.

2. Cap. Martis ☉. = Duæ spicæ, apis META.

3. Noctua ramo inf. = Spica & caduc. META.

ARG. 1. Hercules nud. stans clav. ger. = Spica META.

2. Cap. Martis, canis ΔΕΥΚΙΠΠΟΣ. = Spica avis—META.

3. Homo nud. bovino capite d. pateram—s. Arundinem. = Spica—  
cicada META.

4. Cap. mul. spic. redim. = Spica forceps ΔΟΑ—META.

5. Spica



with the head of Ceres and an ear of corn, and by the magnificent offering which they made at the shrine of the Delphic Apollo. This present consisted of an emblematical representation of Summer in massive gold, and was esteemed one of the richest offerings in the temple.

Pythagoras spent the last years of his life at Metapontum. After his decease, the house he had dwelt in was converted into a temple of Ceres, and resorted to with the greatest veneration by the Metapontines, who were truly sensible of the advantages they had derived from his instructions\*.

This philosopher was one of the most exalted characters of antiquity; one of the few sages who did not confine their

5. Spica—META. = Incussus.
6. Cap. Palladis. = Spica, clava  $\mathcal{K}$ .
7. Cap. Jovis Ammonis. = Spica tripus ME.
8. Cap. mulieb. diadem. = Spica META.
9. Cap. bovinum. = Spica META.
10. Cap. Martis  $\text{HPAKAEI}\Delta\Omega\text{N}$ . = Duæ spicæ, apis META.
11. Cap. Cereris. = Spica—Ciconia  $\text{META}\Pi\text{O}$ .
12. Galea. = Circulus int. duæ tædæ META—radii ex granis hordeæ.
13. Noctua ramo inf.  $\Sigma$ . = Spica, caduc. MET.

- ÆR. 1. Cap. Pallad. = Spica.  $\text{META}\Pi\text{ONT}$ .
2. Tripus luna. gran. hord. = Spica META.
  3. Cap. imb. cornut. = Spica MET.
  4. Cap. Jovis. = Spica META.
  5. Cap. Apoll. = Spica META.
  6. Cap. Cereris = Spica META.
  7. Aquila fulm. inf. = Spica META.
  8. Cap. Cereris. = Duæ spicæ META.
  9. Cap. Minervæ. = Duæ spicæ META.
  10. Cap. Mercur. alat. = 3 gr. hord. caduc. META.

\* Some authors write that he died, and that the temple was dedicated at Croton.

views to private and partial objects, but made their learning of use to nations at large, whom they instructed, enlightened and directed in the paths of moral virtue and real glory. Many ridiculous stories are related of his opinions and doctrines, which give us the idea of a visionary or impostor; but we should be cautious how we admit implicitly anecdotes respecting the great men of distant ages, when we find them clash with what is allowed to have been their general line of conduct. Perhaps Pythagoras found it necessary, in order to captivate the veneration and confidence of a credulous superstitious people, that he should propagate strange and marvellous figments, and thereby allure them to listen attentively to the lessons, and obey the injunctions of a lawgiver. He was the legislator, the reformer of Magna Græcia. To him and his disciples the little states that composed it owe a celebrity which they were not entitled to from extent of dominion or conquests. Their ruin may be attributed to the neglect of his precepts; or, indeed, in some shape to the very great success attending his institutions, which raised those republics to such an uncommon pitch of prosperity, as intoxicated and finally corrupted their citizens.

The Metapontines were warm partisans of Hannibal, who, during many winters, made this city his head-quarters. On the retreat of the Carthaginians, it was punished by the Romans for that attachment with the loss of its liberty. We are informed by Strabo, that this little commonwealth

of farmers was destroyed by the Samnites. It remained in ruins, because it could no longer hold out the sweets of freedom, or the advantages of trade to entice inhabitants back to its desolated walls; and the want of cultivators speedily converted its once happy plains into a dreary desert. At this day there cannot be a more melancholy sight, or one more mortifying to the pride of man, than this wide-stretched tract of land, almost without an inhabitant; scarce disturbed in any part by the plough, full of brown marshes and stagnated pools: noisome fogs and poisonous vapours hang over them, and when set in motion by the power of the sun, carry disease and death into the blood of the wretches doomed to breathe their venomous atmosphere. Instead of a navigable river, in whose deep and capacious bosom whole fleets might moor with safety, the Basiento now has the appearance of a straggling torrent, impeded by sand-banks that shift at every shower, and drive the waters back over half the plain, where they putrify\*.

I slept a few off miles to the west at a farm-house, where my friends of Tarantò had previously secured a comfortable lodging for me.

\* When the shepherds are obliged to pass the night in the open air during the bad season, their method of guarding against the infection is as follows: A fire is lighted, on which they put a large pot of milk. As soon as it boils, they sup up the hot liquor; custom having sufficiently hardened their throats and stomachs. This throws them into a profuse sweat; they then cover their heads with warm woollen caps, and lie down to sleep with their feet close to the fire.



## SECTION XXXVII.

THE next day we travelled eleven miles in the plain, all one wild pasture; ferried over the Agri\*, once a navigable river, now a rapid irregular torrent, and baited at Policoro, a very considerable farm lately belonging to the Jesuits, at present in the hands of the Crown. I believe these possessions do not yield to his Sicilian Majesty so great a revenue as they did to that intelligent society. Those fathers had a noble estate here, bounded by the sea, the rivers Agri and Sinno†; and the mountains, containing all kinds of land, pasture, wood, arable and salt-marsh. The buildings that were raised to contain the produce of so large a farm, to house the numerous herds and flocks, and to lodge the stewards and servants requisite for the conducting of such an establishment, are all laid out upon the great scale that marked every undertaking of that politic congregation. Not many years before the dissolution of their order, they had a flock of five thousand sheep, three hundred cows and oxen, four hundred buffaloes, four hundred goats, and two hundred horses, under the care of three hundred servants. At present things wear a different aspect, and seem verging to ruin rather than advancing towards greater perfection. During the hot season, when the air is

\* Anciently, Aciris.

† Anciently, Siris.

all on fire and very feverish, the Jesuits were wont to retire into the mountains to Latronico, another of their estates.

At the wood near the banks of the Agri, and about three miles from the sea, are some heaps of rubbish, that fix the situation of Heraclea \*. And according to the most probable conjectures, near the mouth of the Sinno was Siris, the port of that city. At present there is nothing but an open road, where ships may lie to take in a cargo of corn and other commodities, of which liquorice is one, a root that grows wild in great quantities along these swamps †, allowing for

\* Nummi Heracleæ.

- AUR. 1. Cap. Palladis.=Hercules leon. strangul. IΦ. HPA.  
 2. Cap. Palladis.=Hercules clava leon. feriens HPAKΛHIΩN.  
 3. Cap. Muli. delph. ΣA.=Fig. vir. nud. delph. inf. d. avem. f. trident. †H. subtus undæ.  
 ARG. 1. Cap. Palladis cum monst. mar. in galea.=Hercules nud. stans d. clavam f. arcum & spol. leon. HPAKΛHIΩN.  
 2. Cap. Palladis.=Hercules leon. strang. clava. noctua sup. hum. leonis †HPAKΛH.  
 3. Cap. Palladis.=Noctua ramo inf. HPAKΛHI.  
 4. Cap. Pallad.=Hercules nud. stans clav. nixus spol. leon. tectus ΠM ΦIAΩ †HPAK.  
 5. Homo nudus delp. inequ. d. diotam. f. trident. sub. undæ †HP.=Eques nudus supervolitante victor. ΣY.  
 6. Cap. Herculis.=Leo gradiens HE.  
 7. Cap. leonis.=Pharetra †HPA.  
 ÆR. 1. Cap. imb. laur. stella.=Clava pharetra. Arcus †H.  
 2. Cap. Pall. laur. & gal.=Hercules stans d. pat. f. clav. †HPAKΛEIΩN.  
 3. Cap. Herculis=Clava pharetra †HPAKΛEIΩN.  
 4. Cap. gal.=Trophæum †HPAKΛEIΩN.

† The sale of this root is said to produce 700%. a-year to the Duke of Corigliano.

all the alterations that so many revolving ages may have made in this abandoned shore, it is a great matter of doubt with me, whether there ever was any good harbour here; or, even in the Agri, a much larger river, because the shape and exposure of the coast reprobates that idea; especially as all ancient authors agree, that no bay between Rhegium and Tarentum was tenable after the autumnal equinox. It is therefore more than probable that ships of burden seldom anchored in this place.

Siris \* was a very ancient city, founded by Trojans, and renowned for its college of priests skilled in cabalistic lore. It became a dependance of Heraclea, to which the principal inhabitants of Siris were obliged to remove. Heraclea was the point of rendezvous agreed upon by the whole Greek confederacy, where their general interests and disputes were to be settled. Upon its medals, many of which I purchased of the peasants, is the figure of Hercules tearing open the jaws of the Nemæan lion. It is probable that Zeuxis, one of the most celebrated painters of antiquity, was a native of this place rather than of any other Heraclea, as his most capital performances were placed in the cities of Magna Græcia. The banks of the Sinno are famous in Roman history for the victory gained by Pyrrhus over the Consul Levinus, in the

\* Nummi Sirinorum.

- ÆR. 1. Prora navis ☿EIRIZ.=Vas folium pamp. KOTN.  
 2. Cap. Mercurii petasatum. ΔA.=Aquila. corona ΣEIRI.  
 3. Cap. Mercurii pet. ☿EI.=Vas.



year of Rome 473. This was the first encounter the Epirote had with the Romans. He purchased the honour of the day at the expence of the flower of his army, and thereby became sensible of the difficulties that awaited the prosecution of his enterprize. He was indebted for his success to his own personal intrepidity, and to the panic which the first sight of elephants struck into the legions.

The neighbouring hills are composed of calcareous tuffus, replete with shells incrustated over, or petrified. Whole skeletons of the larger tribe of quadrupeds have been dug out of these stony strata. At Rocca Imperiale, or near it, was the town of Lagaria, a colony of the Phoceans, noted in antiquity for a sweet and soft wine much esteemed by physicians as a cordial.

At Monte Giordano we entered the Upper or Hither Calabria. The inn wearing the face of dirt and poverty, I rode four miles farther to Roseto, where my guide assured me he had an acquaintance that would be happy to accommodate me with a room. The high lands approach very near to the sea, and are tolerably cultivated: much of the land sown with cotton.

At Roseto, which is but a poor place, I was very hospitably received by a priest. The old man plied me with many questions concerning Naples, England, and America; and, in return for my readiness in gratifying his curiosity, entered with great good sense into a detail of the manners and customs of his own country, and informed me of many

particulars I was an entire stranger to. I learned from him, that population is daily decreasing within the circle of his knowledge, from many causes arising out of the general government of the kingdom, of which he acknowledged himself an incompetent judge; and also, from many others that were within his sphere, and were daily felt by him. He attributed, but methinks without sufficient grounds, this progress of depopulation to the custom followed by the Calabrians, of never marrying beyond the limits of their own township, which he thought perpetuated defects and disorders among them, and from a want of proper crosses in the breed, ended in barrenness and the extinction of families. By these means all the peasants of a village are nearly related. The marriage-portion of a girl depends upon the wealth and numbers of the family, and generally consists of a piece of vineyard, or a single fruit-tree, among which the mulberry holds the first rank for honour and profit.

The common mode of letting farms of baronial or ecclesiastical estates throughout Calabria, is by a lease of two years, with many clauses and restrictions. Proprietors of land of plebeian rank extend the term to six years, and allow the tenant the liberty of cutting a stipulated quantity of wood, on condition of his fencing off an equal portion to spring up again.

The Barons are in general very far from considering themselves as the protectors, the political fathers of their vassals, but encroach so much on the commons and the cultivated

cultivated grounds, for the sake of extending their chace, that the peasants have neither room nor opportunity to raise sufficient food for their support; they therefore fly to the mendicant and other orders of friars, and take the religious habit to procure a subsistence. The father of a family, when pressed for the payment of taxes, and sinking beneath the load of hunger and distress, *va alla montagna*, that is, retires to the woods, where he meets with fellow-sufferers, turns smuggler, and becomes by degrees an outlaw, a robber, and an assassin.

However, matters are not yet in so desperate a situation, as to preclude all possibility of restoring these provinces to a state of opulence and populousness. If government were more attentive to the general good than particular interests; if justice were administered with more honesty and impartiality by the superior magistrates, and less rapaciousness by the subalterns; if taxes were more equally and judiciously imposed, and more tenderly exacted; if the aggrieved peasant had a refuge to fly to in the day of oppression, these fertile countries might emerge from their present state of desolation, and rich flourishing towns might again rise along the now deserted shores. The women are endowed by nature with sufficient fecundity, and bring forth their offspring almost without a groan. It is a common thing for a woman, far gone with child, to go up to the forest for fuel, and to be there surprised with the pains of childbirth, perhaps hastened by her toil: She is nowise dismayed at the  
solitude



solitude all around her, or the distance from home, but delivers herself of the infant, which she folds up in her apron, and, after a little rest, carries to her cottage. It is a proverb much in use in the neighbouring provinces, *Che una serva Calabrese piu ama far un figlio che un bucato*, i. e. "A Calabrian maid-servant prefers the labour of childbirth to that of a wash."

The Calabrians have some very capricious notions deeply rooted in their minds. One is, that every child, whose mother has been true to her marriage vow, must necessarily resemble the father. It is no doubt an easy matter to persuade a peasant, who seldom considers the lineaments of his face in a glass, that the features of the infant are miniature copies of his; but if he were to become thoroughly convinced that no such resemblance existed, he would never be persuaded to pardon his wife, or look upon the child in any other light than that of a bastard.

It is thought a reproach to have been suckled by any but one's own mother. This case seldom happens, for the women recover with so much ease after lying-in, that few children are exposed to the necessity of sucking a strange breast.

They repose great confidence in judgments, and expect to see every person that jeers at another's defects, afflicted with the same; but have a milder idea of the penalty attending passionate oaths and hasty curses: if the party offending repent, they suppose all danger is blown over.

Inocu-

Inoculation has been attempted in one place only, near Reggio; but from ill success in some instances, and the superstitious aversion of the vulgar, those who have undergone the operation are held in utter contempt, and marked by some opprobrious nickname.

If a person dies in the fields by a violent or accidental death, it is believed that his spirit will appear in the same place in white robes, and that the only way of laying it, is to send out young boys to approach silently, and cover it with a volley of stones. Not long ago a Dominican priest, sitting in his white garment on a hill near Tropea, employed in taking a sketch of the country, was mistaken for the ghost of an old mad woman who had dropt down dead some time before on that identical spot. The apparition brought out the youths of the neighbouring village, and the friar had his brains almost knocked out before he could convince the little exorcists of their error \*.

## SECTION XXXVIII.

THE territory of Roseto produces olives, capers, corn, saffron, and cotton. Good wine is said to be made on the hills to the west, but my host was not able to procure me any that was palatable. He told me that the

\* All these particulars have been since confirmed to me by persons whom I know to be well acquainted with the state and manners of the country.

mountains abounded with very fine oak timber fit for ship-building, and that the woods were well stocked with game, which is a great annoyance to the farmers, whatever diversion it may afford the landlord.

By the Roman law, every person was at liberty to fish and hunt on the lands of another, unless formally prohibited by the owner; and, according to the Lombard institutions, no penalty was incurred by trespass without proof of damage. In the kingdom of Naples, the Emperor Frederick seems to be the first that forbade nets and snares, except when employed against bears, wolves, and other noxious animals. His passion for the chase dictated this law, which has been revived by many of his successors. It is a doubt among the Neapolitan lawyers, what right the Barons have to an exclusive chase in their manors, where they cannot shew a precise grant in their investiture, or plead immemorial possession; and it has been the practice of the courts to discountenance their pretensions: much depends upon local custom. The use of guns is contrary to law, which the crown dispenses with at a regular price. A licence for fowling in the plains of Naples with bird-calls costs ten carlines a year; in the plains and woods, twenty-four; and sixty, with nets, in these and in the high lands. At a distance from the capital, it is only five; but the sportsman is not allowed either calls or nets, nor to enter inclosures and reserved baronial chases, if walled in. Overtures have been made to administration by several  
under-



undertenants for the purchase of a general leave of shooting; but a difference in the price has prevented an agreement. The Cacciator Maggiore of the realm being a great Baron, we cannot be surprised if he coincide in sentiment with his fellow-nobles, and, in an aristocratical monarchy, be desirous of extending all restrictive laws; since we behold, in our land of liberal ideas and boasted freedom, the country gentlemen eagerly bent upon curtailing the privileges, and thwarting the inclinations, of the inferior class of citizens.

Calabria is too hilly to admit of hunting; all game is brought down by the gun, or taken in the net. The best kind of spaniel is the *Bracca focata*, a strong dog of a black or deep brown colour, with a tawny belly, and spots over the eyes. It is so excellent, that the king has taken particular pains to increase the breed.

The lower parts of the mountains abound with the Ornus, or small-leaved flowering manna ash, which grows spontaneously and without any culture, except that the woodmen cut down all the strong stems that grow above the thickness of a man's leg. Towards the end of July, the gatherers of manna make an horizontal gash, inclining upwards, in the bole of the tree. As the liquor never oozes out the first day, another cut is given on the second, and then the woodman fixes the stalk of a maple leaf in the upper wound, and the end of the leaf in the lower one, so as to form a cup to receive the gum as it exerts from each slash.

The old man told me, that vipers and martens were remarkably fond of manna. He had himself frequently seen the little quadruped at the tree; but never the reptile, though many of his acquaintance had.—The tyranny exercised over the peasants, on account of this native production of their wildernesses, stands in the foremost line of their numberless and abominable grievances. All manna belongs to the King, who gives it in farm to a set of contractors. To gather it, a certain number of countrymen are furnished by the feudatory, who receives five carlini for every man. During the season, which continues about a month, these fellows are not allowed to absent themselves a single day, or undertake the least work of any other kind, however indispensable for the preservation of their own little private harvest. Their scanty wages are a poor compensation for this involuntary service. Their greedy employers give them only three carlines\* for every rotolo of manna; which quantity, containing thirty-three ounces and a third, is sold for twenty-four carlini and three quarters: if it be in tubular pieces, the price rises one-third. The peasants are punished with the utmost severity, if detected in burning, destroying, or damaging any of these trees, that cause to them so much vexation; and are sent to prison, if the smallest quantity of the juice be found in their houses. They may eat as much as they please in the woods; and most of them take this physic once a year.

\* In the Salernitan district, they pay the gatherers five carlini a rotolo.



Some time ago eight hundred poor labourers of the province of Salerno, no longer able to support this oppressive task, clubbed two carlini a-piece, and bribed a person of the court to present a memorial from them to the King, at Persano ; but, whether their agent deceived them, or the petition shared the fate of so many other petitions in all kingdoms, no manner of notice was taken of it ; and their slavish work returns every year, without any prospect of abolition or remittance. Indeed, throughout the realm, the situation of the husbandmen is truly deplorable ; every thing is excised, and the modes of collecting, wantonly cruel and pernicious. All live animals in Calabria are taxed. Six carlini are paid for an ox, four grains for a sheep ; it is therefore no wonder if the graziers be in indigence, if the cottagers keep no beast of any kind, and live upon casual and unsubstantial nutriment, instead of milk, cheese, and other wholesome diet, which the rich pasturage of the country ought to afford them in as great abundance as that which the Flemings enjoy in their fat soil.

Arable land here is ploughed four times : the first in May. But the labour is in general remissly and languidly performed ; and, instead of laying down their fallows with hay-seeds, clover, or any of those rich artificial grasses which are sown in England to create fine meadows and pastures, the Calabrian farmer thinks he does his farm ample justice, if he ceases to plough it for two or three years, and leaves the good grass, accidentally produced there, to



make its way, as well as it can, through the matted fibres of all manner of rank weeds. There is nothing to encourage the countryman to make any vigorous exertions, or try improvements in agriculture; which require both greater capital and courage than he is possessed of. He can foresee no amelioration in his situation of life, from any efforts he can make: and woful experience has perhaps taught him to apprehend, that an increase of activity and produce would only draw on his shoulders an additional weight of taxes and oppression.

I rose before day, that I might have leisure to examine the site of Sibaris, and reach Corigliano before supper; as there was no tolerable lodging to be expected short of that place.

We rode past Trebisaccio, a very ill-built town, on a hill, and within sight of some others of no consequence, situated on the right hand, upon little eminences prettily planted with olive and almond trees. One of them is called Amendolara, from the abundance of almonds; and is remarkable for being the birth-place of Pomponius Lætus, a celebrated critic and historian of the fifteenth century. The component parts of these hills are a calcareous tophus, with sea-shells, and other fossile substances. The plains along the shore are very boggy, and intersected by a great number of small rivulets, one of which is strongly impregnated with sulphur, and, as I was told, flows from some baths among the hills. The drier spots produce very rich  
crops.

crops of corn. Near the banks of the Racanello, we met great droves of buffaloes, belonging to the Dukes of Cassano: I think the number of beasts exceeded a thousand. These rank, wet pastures are very proper for the breeding of this species of horned cattle, which are of a heavy yet laborious disposition, and delight in marshes. During the broiling heats of summer, they lay themselves down in the water, and leaving only the end of their noses above the surface, defy the assaults of the myriads of insects that swarm in these low grounds. We reposed, during the middle of the day, on the straw of the great barn. Cassano, a fief of the Serra Aragona family, is an episcopal city, about twelve miles from the sea: it has mineral waters, sulphureous baths, and a very fruitful territory.

After dinner we crossed the river Sybaris, now the Coscile, and entered the peninsula formed by that river and the Crathis, where a few degraded fragments of aqueducts and tombs indicate the spot on which stood the city of Sybaris, noted to a proverb in ancient history for the luxury and effeminacy of its inhabitants.

No position could have been more judiciously chosen for commerce or agriculture, as long as an extensive population and industry kept the rivers under controul. Irrigation is, in so dry a climate, the life of husbandry; but unless strong quays and embankments confine the waters to their due course, and prevent their coming down upon the country at improper seasons and in superabundant quantities, ruin and  
I pestilence,



pestilence, instead of riches and health, are the necessary consequences. Attention to the management of these two large streams ensured fertility to the lands, and deep, safe channels for trading fleets. Many ages, alas! have now revolved; since Man inhabited these plains in sufficient numbers to secure salubrity. The rivers have long rolled lawless and unrestrained over these low desolate fields, leaving, as they shrink back to their beds, black pools and stinking swamps to poison the whole region, and drive mankind still farther from its ancient possessions. Nothing in reality remains of Sybaris, which once gave law to four nations, reckoned twenty-five cities among its subjects, and could muster three hundred thousand fighting men. I do not think any remnants, now to be seen, date so far back as the old Sybaritan republic\*.

Sybaris was one of the most ancient of the settlements formed by the Greeks on the Italian shore. The natural richness of its soil encouraged agriculture, which produced abundance of articles of commerce; and the convenience of the situation, between two considerable rivers, naturally led to a great exportation.—From these sources wealth flowed copiously into the state, and with it brought such luxury and degeneracy of manners, as have excited the astonishment and indignation of all ancient writers. Many anecdotes are

\* The materials of the ruins being brick, argue Roman rather than Grecian workmanship. I never met with bricks, in any undoubted Greek ruin, throughout Magna Græcia or Sicily.



told us of the soft Sybarites; some scarcely credible, and all tending to shew how much that people sacrificed every consideration to the enjoyment of the present moment, and how easy a conquest they afforded their more needy and warlike neighbours. But Sybaris, before its hour of misfortune, had numbered many of glory and dominion. It had founded the city of Pæstum on the Tyrrhene sea; its armies had been numerous and formidable; its authority respected over a large range of country; and the wisdom of its councils admired by the surrounding nations. The walls of the capital inclosed a space of six miles and a half, and its suburbs extended near seven miles along the Crathis. What a noble sight! what beauties this country must have displayed, when the impetuous torrents were kept under command, and only let off cautiously and regularly, to convey freshness and fertility to the well-tilled thirsty fields!—when the banks of the river were adorned with warehouses, wherein the merchant deposited his riches; and with elegant villas, and perfumed gardens, whither he retired to enjoy the fruits of his industry!—when its spacious plains teemed with harvests, that, according to the testimony of Varro, repaid the husbandman an hundred fold, and annually loaded large fleets of vessels that crowded the mouths of its rivers!

After retracing all these circumstances in my mind, I looked round me, and could not help thinking myself in a dream, or that the historians must have been dreaming

when

\*

when they wrote of Sybaris. Seventy days, as Strabo says, sufficed to destroy all this grandeur and prosperity. Five hundred and seventy-two years before the Christian æra, the Crotoniates, under their famous Athleta Milo, defeated the Sybarites in a pitched battle, broke down the dams that kept out the Crathis, and let the furious stream into the town, where it soon overturned and swept away every building of use or ornament. The inhabitants were massacred without mercy; and the few that escaped the slaughter, and attempted to restore their city, were cut to pieces by a colony of Athenians, who afterwards removed to some distance, and founded Thurium\*. The coins of Sybaris are among the most ancient known; being of the sort called *Incusi*, i. e. convex on one side, and concave on the reverse. They bear a Bull, which I take to be an emblem of their subdued river, so long their friend and purveyor, but in the end an instrument of their destruction. The great works undertaken to drive back its waters, are probably expressed by the head of the animal being turned back on its shoulder†.

\* Modern authors place it at Terra Nova, four miles up the river; but Livy says expressly it was on the sea-shore.

† Nummi Sybaritarum.

ARG. 1. Taurus stans retroflexo capite  $\gamma\mu$  = Altera pars incussa.

2. Cap. Palladis = Taurus  $\Sigma\tau\beta\alpha$ .

3. Taurus = Vas incussum.

4. Taurus = Quatuor Glob.  $\mu\tau$ .

ÆR. 1. Taurus cap. reflexo  $\gamma\mu$  = Incussum.

I have



I have often wondered why the most outrageous barbarians, the most blood-thirsty conquerors, have found more favour at the hands both of their cotemporaries and of posterity, than the soft indolent Sybarites, who seem to have done harm to nobody, and whose faults originated in the affluent state of their affairs, and the mild temperature of their climate, rather than in any mischievous bent of character. I suspect this virulence of abuse sprang, from the desire their enemies, and the partisans of those enemies, had, of giving a plausible excuse for the cruelty with which the Sybarites were treated; perhaps also from a spirit of envy at their enjoyments; or from the common character, of philosophical declamations. These being the production of a set of men of great poverty, sour tempers, austere morals, and much polemical irascibility, were more frequently employed to lash the indulging voluptuary, than the bloody tyrant or ferocious ravisher; especially as there was more danger in an attack upon the latter. Were the case otherwise, how should we account for their spleen against these Epicures? for what comparison is there between the culpability of a wealthy citizen, revelling in love and wine, pampered up with high-seasoned viands and delicious liquors, reposing in easy carriages and beds of down; and the guilt of an exterminating conqueror, who embrues his hands in the blood of those half-flumbering debauchees, that he may possess himself of their spoils,

Q q

and



and perhaps, in time, add their vices to his own native cruelty? Historians, and orators of all ages, have been guilty of this partiality. For my part, I cannot help feeling a degree of pity for the hard fate of the Sybarites, to whom we are indebted for the discovery of many most useful pieces of chamber and kitchen furniture. They appear to have been a people of great taste, and to have set the fashion, in point of dress, throughout Greece. Their cooks, embroiderers, and confectioners were famous over all the polite world; and we may suppose their riding-masters did not enjoy a less brilliant reputation, since we are told of their having taught their horses to dance to a particular tune. Alexis of Sybaris passes for being the inventor of fables or dialogues, in which the speakers are all rational beings;—the prototype of the Drama: whereas Æsop and others had put their morality into the mouths of animals only.

After the destruction of Sybaris, Thurium became a considerable state under the discipline of Charondas, who died a martyr to the spirit of his own laws. Having fixed the pain of death upon any citizen that should enter the senate-house armed, and being reminded that in his hurry he had brought a sword with him into the assembly, he immediately plunged it into his breast, and sealed his decree with his own blood. Thurium flourished long even under the dominion of Rome, till falling to decay, it was judged expedient

expedient to send a colony thither; after which event it assumed the name of Copia\*.

Herodotus, the father of history, died at Thurium. Augustus Cæsar was nicknamed Thurinus in his youth, either from his father's having governed this province, or from his family's deriving its origin from hence.

Suetonius made Adrian a present of a statue of Augustus, with this name inscribed on the base. Cicero and Antony both reproached him with the lowness of his origin, and asserted that his father, the first of the race who had attained any honours in the republic, was, in the beginning, no better than a money-scrivener; yet it is the common opinion, that this fortunate heir of Julius Cæsar sprang from a rich equestrian family of Veletri.

\* Nummi Thurinorum.

AUR. 1. Cap. Palladis cum monstro marino.=Taurus ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

ARG. 1. Cap. Pall.=Taurus cornupeta. piscis ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

2. Cap. Pallad. elatum.=Taurus cornup. vict. supervol. cor. impon.  
ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

3. Cap. Pall. laur.=Taurus gradiens, piscis—ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

4. Cap. Pall.=Semibos Θ.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Pall. gal.=Taurus corn. piscis ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

2. Cap. Apoll.=Tripus ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

3. Cap. Apoll.=Lyra ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

4. Cap. imb. diad.=Homo nud. stans ΚΛΕΩΝ ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

Nummi Copiensium.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Pallad. 4 globuli.=Cornucopiæ 4 glob. COPIA.

2. Cap. Herculis 3 glob.=Cornuc. 3 glob. L. CAIO COPIA.

3. Cap. Mercurii petasat.=Cornuc. 3 glob. Q. P. C. COPIA.

## SECTION XXXIX.

**W**E ferried over the Crati, a fine broad river, clear and rapid. The ancients were of opinion, that its waters were medicinal, and had the faculty of tinging, of a fair or yellow colour, the hair of all who drank them constantly; and that those of the Sybaris turned it black. They deemed it imprudent to drive cattle to drink at the Sybaris, as the water was apt to excite dangerous sneezings and convulsions, being strongly impregnated with mephitic gas.

For the next three miles, our evening ride was up a most beautiful sloping hill, thickly planted with orange, lemon, citron, olive, almond, and other fruit-trees, which, by their contrasted shades of green, and the variety of their size and shape, composed one of the richest prospects I ever beheld, even in Italy, that country of enchanting landscape. I was enraptured with the beautiful scene, and almost intoxicated with perfumes. The river Crati issues out of a chasm in the chain of mountains, forcing its boisterous way to the Ionian sea, which, though four miles from the place where I stood, appeared, in that bright atmosphere, to lie close to the foot of the hill, just edged with a slip of verdant pasture. The little town of Corigliano rises boldly on the peak of the richly clothed knoll, like the watch-tower and safeguard of all these natural treasures. It is a dutchy be-  
longing



longing to the Saluzzi, a Genoese family, which has been for some years past annexed to the Seggio or ward of Porto at Naples. The buildings are rather better than those of the other Calabrian towns I had passed near, and contain about eight thousand inhabitants, who have an appearance of extreme poverty, and, like Tantalus, starve in the midst of plenty, though their lord has the reputation of being one of the most humane, as well as opulent, feudatories in the province. He has taken some pains to promote agriculture, and the breeding of horses and cattle; but his success has hitherto been inconsiderable.

It was a pleasing and refreshing circumstance to meet whole droves of mules and asses laden with oranges just plucked. They were carrying them to the sea-shore, to be embarked in small boats for Taranto and Gallipoli. The evening sea-breeze, strongly scented with the grateful effluvia, fanned me so delightfully, that with reluctance I entered the town, where I found the inn a very pitiful one, and infected with such disagreeable odours, as formed a woeful contrast with the perfumed air I had lately breathed. I never entered a Venta in Spain that was not preferable to this, for smell, cleanliness, and provisions. The route given me at Naples having made no mention of Carigliano as a sleeping-stage, I came, without any letter, to the Duke's agent, and therefore was refused a bed in his mansion. Upon this denial, I took up my lodging at the house of a dealer in oil. The master was absent, and we saw nobody but

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an old woman servant: the rest of the family kept themselves locked up. I was so ill accommodated, that, as soon as it was possible next morning to get ready, I rode down to the plains through a most delightful country, which I cannot pretend to describe in a manner to do it justice. On every side, fruits and flowers rose in clusters, freshened by the morning air; the round heads of the orange-trees glowed with the rays of the sun that was just rising, and darting his beams along the surface of the sea: the whole neighbourhood was enlivened by crowds of men and women singing as they descended the hill to their daily labour. Every production here is in the highest perfection it can possibly attain when unassisted by art. The husbandry of this province is slovenly, and the skill in gardening very superficial. Both betray a want of emulation and intelligence. Climate and soil do more than half the work, and the hand of dispirited man is sluggishly applied to the task; partial Nature empties the horn of plenty on his head, but from many fatal causes, her bounty contributes little to his welfare; whilst we see, in more northern and less happy regions, the active enterprising labourer able to extort favours from her, and, with the least gawdy of her riches, raise himself to comfort and independence.

The road in the plain is very pleasant, under the shade of olive-trees or evergreen oaks, and through many tracks of very fine corn-fields; but at the end of six miles, it grows stony, steep, and rough, up to the very gates of Rossano, which

which stands in a hollow, surrounded by fertile hills. There is nothing in this archiepiscopal city that claims much notice; the buildings are mean, the streets vilely paved and contrived. The number of inhabitants does not exceed six thousand, who subsist by the sale of their oil, the principal object of their attention, though the territory produces a great deal of good wine and corn.

The lower parts of the hills that encircle this town are composed of Breccia, or pebbles, particles of marcasites, mica, and lead, united together by means of a red bolar earth. There is no regularity in the strata, nor appearance of any gradual subsidence; the upper parts are a tophus full of petrified peccinities, and other exuviae, of which the analogous shell-fish still exists in these seas. From the numerous fragments of lead, and some bits of silver ore picked up in the torrents, I conjecture that the mountains to the westward contain mines of those metals; though I have been assured by a judicious mineralogist of this country, that the accounts given by many writers of the Calabrian mines are vague exaggerations, and that nothing has yet been discovered but slender veins of ore, not likely to turn to any account in the working.

Rossano probably owes its origin to the Roman Emperors, who considered it as a post equally valuable for strength and convenience of traffic. The Marsans, a family of French extraction, possessed this territory, with the title of Prince, from the time of Charles the Second to that of Alphonfus the Second, when the last male heir was, by that



Prince's order, put to death in Ischia, where he was confined for treason\*.

Rossano afterwards belonged to Bona, Queen of Poland, in right of her mother Isabella, daughter to Alphonfus the Second, and at her decease returned to the Crown. It was next in the possession of the Aldobrandini, from whom the Borghesi inherited it.

So late as the sixteenth century, the inhabitants of this city spoke the Greek language, and followed the rite of the Eastern church. Here was formerly the most celebrated rendezvous of the Basilian monks in Magna Græcia. Of that body, the most conspicuous member was Nilus, a saint of a very extraordinary character; for, during his whole life, he persisted in refusing donations of lands, rents, and tenements, though he was the founder of many monasteries. Dominichino, by his admirable fresco paintings in the

\* This illustrious House possessed extensive domains in almost every province, and made that use of their power and wealth, which is but too common in kingdoms distracted by civil dissensions and litigated titles. The Marfans were principals in all disturbances, and took an active part in every commotion. Of these Princes, the most potent was Marino, long the inveterate foe, but finally the dupe of Ferdinand the First; a King who was far from being scrupulous in the means he employed to over-reach his enemies, or to rid himself of them when once in his power. In his treatment of Marino, the law of retaliation seems to plead his excuse, as that giddy nobleman had, sometime before his ruin, enticed the King to a conference near Teano, and there attempted to murder him. The plan failed in the execution, from the consternation and cowardice of the conspirators. Marfan was kept twenty-five years in prison; and then, to complete the extermination of the whole rebellious baronage, was, with many other noblemen, secretly executed, his fortunes for ever lost, and his family annihilated.

church of Grotta Ferrata, near Rome, has made his legend more familiar to the dilettanti, than it is to the common run of devotees; for this faint, being a Greek, is in no very high repute in the Latin rubric: the numerous founders and reformers of orders in subsequent times, have engrossed to themselves almost the whole stock of homage; and I believe very few Romans ever heard his name, though he died in their neighbourhood. The Greek monks were the preservers of books and literature in the south of Italy; for the Lombards despised and neglected the sciences. Charles the Bald invited learned men from Greece to instruct his subjects, and revive a taste for learning among them. These priests opened, in the convent of St. Nicholas, near Otranto, a famous school, to which great numbers of students flocked, and received instruction gratis. The monastery even supported those scholars that wanted the means of providing for their own maintenance. The austerity of life and profound learning of the Basilian Cenobites, gained them the esteem of princes and people, and procured them establishments in the kingdom to the number of five hundred. They maintained their ground to the sixteenth century, using the Greek idiom, but the Latin rite.

Pope John the Seventh, who was chosen in 705, was a native of Rossano. Theologians blame him for his weakness, in yielding too much to the requests of the Emperor and the Eastern prelates.

## SECTION XL.

MY stay at Rossano was very short; as the guide was eager to set out, lest we should be benighted before we reached Cariati, between which place and Rossano he assured me we should find very indifferent accommodations. We rode all the afternoon in a most beautiful vale, cultivated with great neatness, and abounding with pulse and vegetables of various sorts. We passed several rivulets that water and fertilize these fields. The Trionto alone\* deserves the name of river, though not a navigable one, as some geographers style it. One of our horses falling lame, we were obliged to take up our abode for the night at Mirti, a single house, or *Fondaco*. This inn was better than I expected, and the host very civil. He earnestly recommended to the servants to leave nothing out of doors, as there was an encampment of Zingari, or gypsies, in the neighbouring fields, who would lay their hands upon any part of the baggage that was not watched with strict attention. His caution led me to an enquiry into the state of this strange tribe of vagabonds, of whom I had seen great numbers in Spain. The result of his accounts, combined with those I have received from other hands, is as follows :

\* Anciently the Traeis.



The gypsies of Calabria do not contract alliances with any other class of inhabitants, but marry among themselves. It is not possible to say where they reside, as they have no fixed habitation, consequently possess neither house nor land; but wherever they think proper to make any stay, pitch their tents. They support life by the profits of little handicrafts, but more by those of swopping asses and horses, which they will do for the smallest trifle to boot; nay, one has been known to truck his ass with another for a glass of wine. They generally work in iron, and make trivets, knitting-needles, bodkins, and such baubles. Their dress is extremely shabby; they shave their chins, but indulge a great length of hair, which they seldom disturb with either comb or scissors. As to their religion, it is a secret they keep locked up in their own breasts. They seem to have no great veneration for the Virgin Mary; but are supposed to believe in Christ. All the proof we have of their belief depends upon appearance, and an occasional conformity to the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic church in marriage, burials, &c.; but if the priests start any difficulties, they manage the matter without their interference, and perform the functions according to their own customs; which in many points resemble those of the heathens. At their weddings they carry torches, and have paranympths to give the bride away, with many other unusual rites. It is in reality almost an absurdity to talk of the religion of a set of people whose moral character is so depraved, as to make it evident they

believe in nothing capable of being a check upon their passions. They are universally accounted to be pilferers, cheats, faithless, shameless, and abandoned to all manner of dissoluteness. The following anecdote will shew how little they are under the control of modesty, or fear of shame. A gang of gypsies assembled at the fair of Marsico Nuovo, with an intention of robbing the shops, for which purpose a proper number of them were dispersed in the throng. To draw off the merchants by some very extraordinary incitement to curiosity, was the next point to be considered; and with this view they adopted an expedient that would have shocked the most hardened libertine. Some of their men and women went into the adjacent fields, and there proceeded to such indecent liberties, as soon brought most of the people of the fair about them, and left their shops a prey to the confederate thieves.

Contracts and plighting of faith are by them esteemed mere empty forms; and whenever the breach promises more advantage than the observance, they never hesitate a moment. No cheats can be more artful or impudent. When they bring their asses to sale, they prick their shoulders with very small needles set in a piece of cork, which makes the poor animals bound like deer. The unsuspecting chapman thinks he buys the fleetest of beasts, and perhaps finds, upon trial, that he has purchased a dull, restive, foundered grizel. The gypsies have a way of throwing down the mules and asses they wish to buy, and thereby depreciating  
 2 their



their merit\*. They tell fortunes, and play juggling tricks, as they do in all other countries where they are tolerated. In 1560, they were banished the kingdom as thieves, cheats, and spies for the Turks. In 1569, and 1585, the order was renewed, but not being enforced, had little effect.

A gypsy being brought to trial for larceny, declared, That his law allowed him to take from others as much every day as sufficed for his maintenance. These people make use of two languages, one Calabrian, with a foreign accent and pronunciation; the other, a peculiar one of their own; which, in sound, seems to bear a great affinity to the Oriental tongues, and is spoken when they have secrets to impart to each other.

One of the most intelligent of the crew being asked, Why his nation was a wandering one? replied, That they cannot remain in a place above a few days without being over-run with lice. This propensity to breed vermin proceeds from their excessive filthiness. They sleep like dogs in a kennel, huddled altogether, men, women, and children, taking up no more room asleep than if they were dead and buried, which crowding must cause a heat and fermentation extremely favourable to the multiplication of nauseous insects.

On the 10th of May we travelled along the shore, having high land on our right. The numberless beds of

\* When they travel through a country where herds of horses and asses are suffered to wander without a keeper, they steal them, by casting over their necks a ball of lead fastened to a thong.



torrents, which we were obliged to cross, made the road very unpleasant. The first place we came to was Cariati, a principality belonging to the Spinelli, one of the most opulent feudatory families, divided into several branches, and possessed of very capital fiefs in Calabria \*. This city is small, and thinly inhabited, on account of the weakness of its situation, and dread of the Turks, who, before a treaty was concluded with the Porte, were continually ravaging this coast. Its cathedral is a very heavy Gothic structure, dedicated to St. Peter, and the only parish. The surrounding hills are gay, and pleasingly covered with fruit-trees; the woods behind them produce manna of excellent quality; much Turkey wheat is cultivated in the lands below, and extensive pastures afford luxuriant and wholesome sustenance to a great stock of oxen, buffaloes, sheep, goats, and swine. In Calabria, all the oxen are white, large, and long-horned, except those of the red breed, which have been introduced from Sicily by the Princes of Cariati and Geraci. I never saw buffaloes of any colour but black; and most of the goats, sheep, and hogs are of that hue. The last species have no hair, but are as sleek in the hide

\* This family came from Somma, and is not mentioned in the chronicles before the year 1224. The man who laid the foundation of this wealth was John Baptist Spinelli, conservator of the royal patrimony under Ferdinand the Catholic, to whom he recommended himself by the vigilance with which he watched the motions of the Viceroy Gonsalvo de Cordova. Ferdinand, on his arrival at Naples, distinguished John very much, and gave, or enabled him to purchase, Cariati and other considerable estates, since augmented by the prudence of his descendants.

as an elephant. This country abounds with game of the lesser feathered tribes, such as doves, quails, and other birds of passage. Dormice are here accounted delicate game, as they were in ancient Rome, where they were kept in warrens, and fattened for the tables of the most refined epicures. The hair of these animals is here more generally grey than russet. They are smoked out of their nests in hollow trees, and caught with sharp hooks. Their skins make very fine leather.—The sea of Cariati abounds with fish. At a place called Terra Vecchia, east of the city, are the slight remains of Paternum.

After dinner, we travelled four miles through arable lands of a strong clayey soil, where the course of husbandry is, to take a crop of wheat, and then to leave the field fallow two years for pasturage. We afterwards crossed hilly olive grounds, covered with loose stones, under which I found some strata of compact grindstone, and lumps of whetstone, of a good quality. At the foot of these hills runs the Aquanile, which, both from name and position, I take to be the Hylias, anciently the limit between Sybaris and Croton. On its banks the Crotoniates gained the victory which made them masters of the Sybaritan territory. They were led to battle by Milo the wrestler, equipped like Hercules, with club and lion's skin, and crowned with the prize-wreaths he had won at the Olympic games.

My intention was to have slept at the town of Ciro, which seems to stand on the site of Crimissa, a city founded

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by Philoctetes, the friend, and, to his cost, the heir of Hercules. But being assured that I should meet with neither accommodations nor provisions at that place, I preferred remaining below in the plain, at a single house, where my apartment was none of the best; but I had seen worse; and the civility of the people made amends for inconveniences. Ciro is a very poor place, containing about six thousand inhabitants; it belongs to Spinelli, Prince of Tarfia, who monopolizes all the silk made by his vassals. The territory produces also very fine oil and corn, execrable wine, but good water. This town, though by no means in an unhealthy situation, affords a livelihood to six doctors in physic. The evening was mild and still; I spent it in a solitary walk along the beach of Cape Alice, the most eastern point of the Calabrian coast, except the Lacinian or Crotonian promontory. It was famous for a temple of Apollo Halyus, of which I could not discover the smallest vestige; the waves of the sea having covered, or the hand of man removed, every stone of it. During supper, the keeper of the neighbouring watch-tower came to pay me a visit. A glass or two of wine restored that liberty to his tongue which respect had restrained; and, after endeavouring to impress me with a high idea of his courage, and the havoc he would make with his single gun in an army of Algerines, he entertained me with several anecdotes of his brother-warders; one of which I noted for its singularity. Part of the crew of a Barbary vessel had landed near  
a mari-



a maritime tower, with an intent of plundering a village on the coast; when their progress was impeded, and their fury diverted, by the watchman's shooting their Reys through the head from the battlements. The Infidels flew to the foot of the tower, and attacked it with great fury. In spite of the fire and other efforts of the defender, they had almost reached the top; when the poor Calabrian, finding his ammunition gone, and his case desperate, be-thought himself of a singular engine of defence. He snatched up some bee-hives that stood on the platform, and running round the parapet, shook out the angry insects upon the assailants; who, stung to the quick, and terrified with this incomprehensible, miraculous attack, were glad to relinquish the scalado, and plunge into the water, to deliver themselves from their cruel antagonists. It is not every warder that can strike out such resources in generalship; and without them his post is scarce tenable; for the towers are but indifferently constructed, or provided for resistance: they are square and bulky, and not very lofty. The door is about half-way up, with a ladder, which is taken in at night; over this is a terrace, on which is placed a cannon, more for the purpose of alarming the coast, than sinking the boats of an enemy. I was told at Rome, by an inspector of these forts, that, in the course of his visitation, he came once to a tower, where the guard, in answer to the usual queries concerning his skill and care of the artillery, led him into the room under the battery, and pointing

to a packthread steeped in brimstone, that hung through a crevice in the cieling from the touch-hole of the cannon, informed him, that he had found out that to be the safest and most expeditious method of discharging the piece.

### SECTION XLI.

THE next day we arrived at Cotrone for dinner; having baited in the plain below Strongoli, a city on a rugged mountain, supposed to be the ancient Petelia\*. Philocletes first settled a colony at Petelia, which afterwards became the capital of the Lucanians, and made a conspicuous figure, in the second Punic war, by its obstinate resistance to Hannibal. Marcellus, the illustrious rival of that hero, perished in a skirmish near its walls. Strongoli belongs to a Pignatelli, who keeps a large stud of horses in the waste lands near the sea. The Calabrian horses are pretty, spirited and brilliant in their motions, but in general

\* Nummi Petelinorum.

ÆR. 1. Cap. barb. galeat.=Victoria gradiens d. coron. ΠΕΤΗΛΙΝΩΝ.

2. Cap. imb. rad.=Tripus. Τ. ΠΕΤΗΛΙΝΩΝ.

3. Cap. mul. velat.=Jupiter fulminans ΠΕΤΗΛΙΝΩΝ.

4. Cap. Jovis=Jup. fulm. tripus. ΠΕΤΗΛΙΝΩΝ.

5. Cap. Jovis.=Fulmen. Τ. ΠΕΤΗΛΙΝΩΝ.

6. Cap. Apoll.=Figura mulieb. grad. d. styl. ΠΕΤΗΛΙΝΩΝ. duo glob.

7. Cap. Herculis=Clava ΠΕΤΗΛΙΝΩΝ.

8. Cap. mul.=Canis. ΠΕΤΗΛΙΝΩΝ.

low,

low, and seldom free from vice. I know by experience that they can go through severe fatigue, having rode a small one, in hot weather, five successive days, at the rate of fifty miles a day. This breed is not attended to with all the care it deserves; for the prohibition of exportation renders the owners much more indifferent about the perfection of their horses than they would be, if there were a demand from other countries, and a brisk sale allowed, to excite their emulation. Another cause of neglect lies in the excessive badness of the roads in this mountainous country, where mules, being much more hardy and enduring, are fitter for service, and consequently more marketable. They carry upwards of three cantara, through the most difficult, dangerous ways imaginable, without stumbling.—The Barons have no exclusive feudal right to breed horses, though some of them arrogate to themselves a monopoly by violence. We passed the Nieto\* in a boat. The air is unwholesome on the banks of this river, which divides the two Calabrias; but the herbage must be incomparable, if I may judge from the delicacy and sweetness of the milk and cream cheeses, for which this canton is renowned.

Cotrone has succeeded to the Greek city of Croton, but does not cover the same extent of ground. I was assured that in summer this climate is unhealthy; a misfortune that cannot proceed from local causes; for the salubrity of

\* Anciently Necæthus.



Croton was famous to a proverb among the ancients. The Esaro, which flowed through the very centre of the old town, now runs in a shallow stony bed, at a considerable distance north of the gates.

Great works have been constructed, in the present reign, to form a harbour for this town. Time will shew whether the exertions of ministry have been directed by skill and judgment; and whether the obstacles, that heretofore prevented vessels from riding in safety before Cotrone, have been sufficiently removed and guarded against for the future. The entrance of the new haven is open to the north and north-east winds; points of the compass from which very boisterous blasts rush down the Adriatic, across the Tarentine gulph, though perhaps less tremendous than the Scillocco and southerly winds. As the hills and projection of the capes protect Cotrone from storms on the south quarter, I am surprised the engineers did not direct the mouth of the haven more easterly: the entrance would have been easier, and the vessels less disturbed while in port. However, as I pretend to no technical knowledge in the engineering line, but speak from rude guesses and cursory observation, I am willing to believe there were sufficient reasons for proceeding on the plan that has been adopted. Perhaps the weight of water rolled up the gulph might create a dangerous swell, or sands might in time accumulate at the passage, if the harbour lay open to the east. But it is the opinion of many sensible observers, that greater

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advan-

advantages might have been procured for the money, and that very great additional expence is requisite, to complete the undertaking. I should no doubt have judged more favourably of an enterprize, which, like the hand of a Creator, forms a port, where the ancient mariners despaired of procuring secure anchorage,—had I not been informed that the venerable fragments of the old city, its suburbs and temples, had been dilapidated, to furnish materials for the piers and buttresses. This was a very trifling saving, in so expensive a concern; and appears a piece of extraordinary barbarism in ministers, that plumed themselves upon their excavations at Herculaneum, and the care with which they preserved the precious monuments of antiquity\*. Cotrone is fortified with single walls, and a castle erected by Charles the Fifth. Its private buildings are poor and sordid; the streets dismal and narrow: ill-humour, misery, and despondency were strongly depicted in the countenance of every inhabitant I met. There is very little bustle; little commercial hurry; cheese and corn are the principal commodities. For the stowage of corn, there are ranges of granaries in the suburbs; and the annual export is about two hundred thousand tomoti. The cheese is tolerably good; but has a great deal of that hot, acrid taste, so common to all cheese made with goats milk. The wine

\* The harbour is capable of containing a considerable number of merchant ships, but none above the tonnage of a Polacca. The mouth of the port is marked by two light-houses.



is not unpleasant, and appears susceptible of improvement, by better management in the making and keeping.

This being the actual state of the town, let us cast a view back upon its situation in those ages, when four republics, founded by Grecian refugees, gave the law to the shores of the Tarentine, Ionian, and part of the Tyrrhenian seas; when neither the Lucanians nor Bruttians had assembled together in sufficient numbers, amidst their mountainous recesses, to disturb or oppose the dominion of these colonies. I shall form no conjectures concerning Hercules or Myscellus, the supposed founders of Croton; but take for granted that it was occupied by navigators from Achaia; and that their posterity rose by virtue and valour to the highest eminence of fame among the sons of Greece. But this valour, this virtue, appear to have been called forth by the wholesome precepts and severe institutes of the Pythagorean school. Pythagoras, after his long peregrinations in search of knowledge, fixed his residence in this place, which some authors think his native one, at least that of his parents, supposing him to have been born in the isle of Samos, and not at some town of that name in Italy. This incomparable sage spent the latter part of his life in training up disciples to the rigid exercise of sublime and moral virtue, and instructing the Crotoniates in the true arts of government, such as alone can insure happiness, glory, and independence.

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Under the influence of this philosophy, the Crotoniates inured their bodies to frugality and hardships, and their minds to self-denial and patriotic disinterestedness. Their virtues were the admiration of Greece, where it was a current proverb, that the last of the Crotoniates was the first of the Greeks. In one Olympiad, seven of the victors in the games were citizens of Croton; and the name of Milo is almost as famous as that of Hercules. The vigour of the men, and beauty of the women, were ascribed to the climate, which was believed to be endowed with qualities peculiarly favourable to the human system. Their physicians were in high repute; and among these, Alcmeon and Democides rendered themselves most conspicuous. Alcmeon was the first who dared to amputate a limb, in order to save the life of a patient; and also the first writer who thought of inculcating moral precepts under the amusing cloak of apologues. This invention is more commonly attributed to Æsop, as he was remarkably ingenious in this species of composition. Democides was famous for his attachment to his native soil. Though carested and enriched by the King of Persia, whose queen he had snatched from the jaws of death, he abandoned wealth and honours, and by stratagem escaped to the humble comforts of a private life at Croton.—The Pythagoreans are said to have discovered that disposition of the solar system, which, with some modifications, has been revived by Copernicus, and is now universally received, as being most agreeable to nature  
and

and experiment. Theano, the wife of Pythagoras, and many other women, emulated the virtues of their husbands\*.

In those fortunate days the state of Croton was most flourishing. Its walls inclosed a circumference of twelve miles. Of all the colonies sent out from Greece, this alone furnished succour to the mother-country when invaded by the Persians. By its avenging arms the Sybarites were punished for their shameful degeneracy; but victory proved fatal to the conquerors, for riches, and all their pernicious attendants, insinuated themselves into Croton, and soon con-

\* Nummi Crotonorum.

AUR. 1. Cap. Mul.=Hercules sedens aquam vers. KPOTΩNIATAN.

ARG. 1. Tripus ☿▷◊. Incussus.

2. Idem cum ave.

3. Tripus ☿▷◊. avis.=Aquila capite reverso.

4. Facies plena diad. cum monili.=Hercules sed. sup. exuvias leon. d. vas. suprā arcus clava & pharetra KPOTONIATAN.

5. Fac. pl. diad. cum mon.=Hercules tectus pelle leon. aquam fundens ex vase in tripodem—clava KPOTON. ΟΣ.

6. Cap. Apollinis diad.=Hercules strang. leon.

7. Cap. Apoll. laur. KPOTΩNIATAN.=Civitas murata. suprā fulmen in muris victoria et eques.

8. Aquila fulm. inf.=Tripus, cornucop. KPO.

9. Tripus. ☿. KPOTONIATAN.—Aquila volans ung. palmæ ramum tem.

10. Sæpia.=Tripus cum ave ☿▷◊.

11. Cap. Apoll.=Lyra.

12. Avis=Taurus ☿—v. stella cochlea.

ÆR. 1. Herculis cap. KPO.=Tripus ☿Υ.

2. Cap. Jovis.=3 lunæ et stellæ.

3. Cap. Cereris.=Tres lunæ KPO.

4. Cap. imb.=3 lunæ KPO.

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taminated the purity of its principles. Indeed, the very constitution of human nature militates against any long continuance in such rigid practices of virtue; and therefore it is no wonder if the Crotoniates fell by degrees into the irregularities they once abhorred. Not long after, the Locrians, who were less corrupted, defeated them on the banks of the Sagra, and reduced the republic to distress and penury. This restored the remaining Crotoniates to their pristine vigour of mind, and enabled them to make a brave, though unsuccessful resistance, when attacked by Dionysius of Syracuse. They suffered much in the war with Pyrrhus, and, by repeated misfortunes, decreased in strength and numbers, from age to age, down to that of Hannibal, when they could not muster twenty thousand inhabitants. This small population being incapable of manning the extensive works erected in the days of prosperity, Croton was taken by the Carthaginians, and its citizens transported to Locri. The Romans sent a colony hither two hundred years before Christ. In the Gothic war, this city rendered itself conspicuous by its fidelity to Justinian, and Totila besieged it long in vain. In one of the campaigns, during the war between Charles of Anjou and Frederick of Aragon, the latter not only drove his rival out of Sicily, but pursued his advantages into Calabria, where his fortunate admiral, Roger Lauria, obtained a complete victory over the Provençal party. The next step taken by the conqueror was to invest Cotrone, which made no long defence, but sent out commissioners

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to propose a capitulation. During the negociation, the Sicilians, taking advantage of the security and negligence of the besieged, entered the city by surprise, and plundered it without mercy. The admiral insisted upon restitution being made; but Frederick could not prevail upon himself to relinquish a prize already won, and by this refusal to do justice to Lauria's warranty, provoked him to join the Angevines, and become a most formidable opponent.

A branch of the House of Rufo was long in possession of the fief of Cotrone. Henrietta, their heiress, was destined, by Alphonfus the First, to be the wife of his favourite, Inigo de Avalos; but she fell in love with, and married Antony Centeglia, who had been sent by Alphonfus to settle the preliminaries of the match. Centeglia soon felt the weight of royal vengeance; was besieged in Catanzaro, and obliged to surrender at discretion. The King confined both him and his wife in Naples, where they spent many years in poverty and obscurity. On the demise of Alphonfus, Antony escaped to Calabria, and excited that province to revolt. The beginning of his enterprize was successful; but upon his being worsted and taken prisoner, all the hopes of his party vanished, and his family sank again into misery.

## SECTION XLII.

IN order to vary the scene, I hired a boat to carry me round the capes, while my horses proceeded the shortest way to Catanzaro. By this plan I had an opportunity of seeing some places that lie out of the direct route by land.

We soon doubled Cape Nau, and darting through a shallow bay full of shelves and islets, landed at Cape delle Colonne, known in ancient geography by the name of the Lacinian Promontory, which, with the promontory of Salentum, or St. Maria di Leuca, forms the mouth of the Tarentine Gulf, seventy miles wide. The land is very high, rocks, coarse granite, and breccia. On a point impending over the waves, are some scattered stones, and a few regular courses of building, said to be the ruins of the school of Pythagoras, and of the temple of Juno Lacinia. About forty years ago, two columns of this edifice were still standing. One has long been fallen, the other still remains standing upon a foundation of large stones cut into facets, and serves as a landmark for navigators. Its order differs little from that of the columns at Metapontum; but some bricks, which appear intermixed with the stone-work, create a doubt in my mind, whether these fragments appertain to any building so ancient as the Crotonian republic. It may have been rebuilt by the Romans, and the old columns made to serve

T t 2

again.

again. This conjecture acquires weight by what history tells us of the Cenfor Fulvius Flaccus having stripped the roof of its marble flags, to cover a temple he had dedicated in Rome. The covering was sent back by order of the senate; but from a want of slaters able to replace it properly, the edifice remained unroofed, and was probably destroyed by the weather. Reidefel supposes these ruins to have been part of Croton; but that is not possible, as they are seven miles from the Esaro, which we know divided the town into two parts. In my opinion, they are more likely to be remains of the college of Juno's priests, or of the stalls for her numerous herds and flocks, that ranged undisturbed over the lawns and under the groves. Few places of worship drew so many pilgrims as this temple. At stated seasons, the roads of Italy and Greece were thronged with parties of devotees marching, with expiatory presents and votive offerings, towards the shrine of the goddess. Such a conflux of sacrifices swelled the holy treasure to an incredible value. Among heaps of ornaments of the most precious materials, was distinguished a column of solid gold. In a word, this wealth was the prototype of the golden wainscot, massive lamps, and diamond crowns of Loreto. But Loreto has been hitherto more fortunate, or better protected than Lacinium, which frequently excited the cupidity, and became the prey, of sacrilegious conquerors. This temple was the scene of a barbarous action committed by Hannibal, if we are to believe the Romans, who, by destroying



destroying all records of Punic history, have taken care to prevent our bringing any proof against their assertions. They write, that Hannibal, finding himself under the necessity of obeying the summons of the Carthaginian senate, assembled all his Italian allies in this temple, and there caused such as refused to embark with him for Carthage, to be massacred by his African soldiers.

The view from this headland is very extensive. I returned to my boat, and kept under the shore till we had passed three other capes, when night coming on, we were obliged to run into a cove on the south-east side of Capo Rizzuto, the northern head of the Squillacean gulf, as Capo di Stilo is the southern one. My boatmen were very anxious to draw the felucca on shore, and shelter themselves from danger under the gun of a watch-tower. They were much afraid lest any Barbary rovers should be lurking among the islands and creeks; though, from all their accounts, I could not find that they were often troubled with their visits. The crew set up an awning, and prepared supper, perfectly satisfied with the safeguard of the tower, though ten Algerines would have been an overmatch for us and our protectors. I took a moon-light walk by the sea-side, and spent an hour very agreeably. When I returned to my company, they expostulated with me on the rashness of my venturing out alone; and seeing me laugh at their apprehensions, nodded at each other, and agreed together, that I could not be so bold, unless I had a

charm about me. This remark excited my curiosity, and upon enquiry I learned that in Calabria there are certain old women who fabricate talismans on bits of parchment, which they sell for eighteen ducats to the bravos that can afford to lay out so much money. This charm is supposed to render the wearer invulnerable; and as a preliminary security, a pistol is fired at it: but care is taken to qualify the charge so as to drive the ball but feebly against the mark. The purchaser, confident of safety, lays the amulet upon his breast, attacks his adversaries without fear, and generally, by his daring appearance, strikes them with a panic\*.

Before day-break we pushed off our boat, and rowed over to an island marked in every map as the habitation of Calypso. Things must have changed wonderfully since the

\* I have since procured one of these pieces of witchcraft from a priest, who had obliged a penitent of his to give it up, as belonging to wicked practices strictly forbidden by the church.

It was couched exactly in these terms:

+

+ Anna Pariote

Incanto la tua persona ardente da parte di Christo  
 innipotente da parte del corno di natale per  
 le tre messe chesi disino in cielo si scrissino  
 + lunedì santo + martedì santo + mercoledì santo +  
 Giovedì santo + Venerdì santo + Sabato santo da tutte  
 Magarie sia yuardata cirieleison Christoeleison  
 corpo di Christo salvate + Aglio + taglio et faglio  
 + lega mane piede e core a chi offennare mi uoli  
 Sangue di Christo commoglia metu +.

time

time of Ulysses, or the goddesses have daily worked a miracle in providing food, without which supernatural assistance the shipwrecked hero had died of hunger: at present this rock would scarcely maintain a sheep. Some thickets of lentiscus, and other brushwood, are the only representatives of the tall trees which the Ithican chief felled for the construction of his vessel. Scholiasts have fixed Calypso's isle at Cape Rizzuto, because it is directly east of Corfu, whither Ulysses steered with a west wind; but unless Homer talked of imaginary land, hidden from mankind, as the etymology of the words Ortygia and Calypso imply, or, from the scarcity of geographical helps in that age, was ignorant of the true distances of places, it is difficult to reconcile matters to probability, I won't say truth, because a poet is not supposed to be strictly bound to it. Corcyra or Corfu, the land of the Phæacians, which is not a night's sail from Ithica, is scarce one hundred miles distant from Italy, and therefore could not require seventeen days sailing with a prosperous gale. Homer, in the opinion of Strabo and the most enlightened critics, had travelled much, and did not raise his epic building merely upon the shadowy basis of fiction;—the voyages of Ulysses had been handed down by tradition, and to some well-known stories he added poetical embellishments. Perhaps the sea has covered large tracts of land near this cape, and the rocky islets we still perceive above the waters, may be no more than the tops of the hills that rose upon the beautiful plains where Calypso and her nymphs were said to



wander. When, on considering Homer's narrative with attention, I find Ulysses is driven back into Charybdis by a south wind, gets again upon the wreck, and congratulates himself upon his passing unnoticed under the jaws of Scylla, which was north of the whirlpool, I think it evident he was not carried into the Ionian, but the Mediterranean sea, or, perhaps the ocean, where he was hurried away before the wind during nine days and nine nights, till he reached the island of Ortygia. The Baleares in one, or the Fortunate Isles in the other, afforded room enough for the goddess's establishment; and from thence he might very well be seventeen days before he saw Corfu rise like a buckler on the sea.

I found no charms on the island powerful enough to detain me; and therefore, after a breakfast on prawns and limpets, caught and dressed by my steersman, I put off, and doubling the cape, entered the Gulph of Squilacce. The rocks are composed of pebbles, sand, and shells, united together.

#### S E C T I O N XLIII.

THE sky was overcast, and threatened rain, which made us keep close to the shore. We rowed round the little harbour of Castelle, probably the place formerly called Castra Hannibalis, from which that able, but ill-seconded general, embarked

barked for Carthage\*. As we sailed along, the man at the helm pointed out to me several inland towns of little note, but beautiful objects from the sea. Cutro was one, remarkable for having given birth to Galeni, a renegado, who, in the sixteenth century, rose to great honour at the Ottoman Porte, and, by the name of Ulucciali Bassá, commanded the Turkish fleet, was Viceroy of Algiers and Tunis, and became one of the greatest scourges of Christendom. In the height of his prosperity, he was desirous of bestowing a part of his wealth upon his aged mother, who lived in poverty at Cutro; but that spirited old woman refused to accept of the smallest token from a son, who had forsaken the religion of his fathers, and professed himself the sworn enemy of Christianity.

Belcastro was another town in view, distinguished by the birth of Saint Thomas di Aquino, whose father was Lord of this city. The good Calabrese think the stain of having produced ten thousand Uluccialis, perfectly wiped away by the glory of having one such Doctor of the Church for their countryman†.

#### Cropani

\* D'Anville places it near Squillace, from a persuasion that Pliny and Solinus fix Hannibal's camp in the narrowest spot of the whole istmus; but it appears to me they only meant, that the port from which he took his departure was situated in the Gulph of Squillace, between which and that of St. Eufemia, Italy is not quite twenty miles broad. The name of a tower called Torre d'Annibale, a little to the west of this bay, is some proof that d'Anville mistook the sense of the above-mentioned authors.

† This Dominican saint was full as good a gentleman as the founder, St. Dominick de Gusman. The House of Aquino derived its pedigree from the

U u

Lombard

Cropani was also in sight, once a flourishing town, but reduced by earthquakes to a ruinous village. The country about it, is a gay mixture of bean and corn fields, vineyards, and tufts of walnut and mulberry trees, a rich variety very unusual in a marine prospect. Several rivers, emptying their waters into the sea, make bold breaks in the hills, and produce charming accidents of light and shadow.

On the banks of the Litrello, one of the many streams we saw, is a little village called Malifano, fixed upon by the Spaniards for the birth-place of a man who, in 1600, gave the Court of Madrid a great deal of uneasiness. Parrino, one of the most servile flatterers among the court-writers, gives us, in his Theatre of Viceroys, the following curious account of this extraordinary personage: “ This  
 “ year there came to Naples a famous impostor, who pre-  
 “ tended to be the King of Portugal. This man was a  
 “ Calabrese of Malifano, a village near Taverna, by name  
 “ Marco Tullio Cotifone, who went to Padua in a pil-  
 “ grim’s dress, and said he was Don Sebastian. He was seized  
 “ by order of the state, sent to Venice, and formally inter-  
 “ rogated. To the questions put to him he made answer,  
 “ That the story of his death had been vamped up by the  
 “ Spaniards; that he had escaped from the battle, and tra-

Lombard Princes of Capua, one of whom, in the tenth century, granted the county of Aquino in Terra di Lavoro, to his son Adinolf. When it became again customary to distinguish families by surnames, the descendants of Adinolf assumed that of their earldom.

“ velled



“ velled to Jerusalem, to fulfil a vow he had made in the  
“ moment of danger. As a proof of the identity of his  
“ person, besides the likeness of features, similitude of sta-  
“ ture, and Portuguese language, which he spoke in perfec-  
“ tion, he shewed one arm longer than the other, a  
“ remarkable and uncommon defect that had been ob-  
“ served in the King. What most astonished the senate,  
“ was his quickness of repartee, judgment in political  
“ matters, dignity of behaviour, princely carriage, and  
“ the minute account he gave of the private proposals,  
“ answers, and negotiations between that Prince and the  
“ Venetian Ambassadors at Lisbon. However, as it was  
“ well known Don Sebastian could not be alive, since King  
“ Philip had redeemed his body of the Moors for an hun-  
“ dred thousand ducats, the Senate suspected this man to  
“ be, what in reality he was, an infamous forcerer; and  
“ therefore, after two years imprisonment, banished him  
“ out of their territories. The Portuguese residing in  
“ Venice clothed him, and forwarded him to Florence in  
“ the disguise of a friar; but there the Duke, who was  
“ attached to the Spanish interest, caused him to be seized,  
“ and sent in chains to Naples. When he was brought  
“ into the presence of the Viceroy Count de Lemos, who,  
“ on account of the heat, was standing without his hat, he  
“ haughtily bid him be covered. Being asked by the  
“ Viceroy, What authority he had for giving him such an  
“ order? he replied, That although the Count could not

“ have forgotten the business which had carried him twice  
“ to Lisbon in the time of the late King Philip, he would  
“ refresh his memory with some particulars of the affair.  
“ The minute detail he gave came so near to truth, that  
“ the Viceroy was struck with amazement; but, upon re-  
“ collecting himself, declined all farther conference, and  
“ ordered him to prison. He remained there closely con-  
“ fined till the arrival of the next Viceroy, when he was  
“ brought to trial. His low birth was proved upon him,  
“ the fraud discovered, and the impostor condemned to the  
“ galleys. While on board, he gained the love and respect  
“ of all his fellow-slaves, and was constantly treated by  
“ them as if he had really been the person he wished to  
“ pass for. He was afterwards sent to the fleet of Sicily,  
“ and there examined by the Duke of Medina Sidonia,  
“ who had visited Lisbon during the reign of Don Sebastian.  
“ The prisoner addressed the Duke as an inferior, and  
“ asked him what became of an African boy he had given  
“ him twenty-two years ago? Medina was confounded;  
“ and bursting into tears, retired from the galley, very  
“ much undecided what to think of the business. The  
“ court, at last, thought it safest to rid themselves of  
“ him; and he was accordingly put to death on the island  
“ Delle Femine, near Palermo. After he had been stretch-  
“ ed on the rack, where he confessed that he had carried  
“ on the cheat by the assistance of the Devil; and, in fact,  
“ all those marks which had rendered his lies so plausible,  
“ disappeared

“disappeared from his body the moment he was dead.” Giannone, who wrote under the patronage of an Austrian prince, affects to treat this affair as a foolish trick; but many authors give more credit to the slave’s story. Parrino’s absurd recourse to magic and diabolical illusion, is rather an argument in favour of this unhappy man’s pretensions; for if the court of Spain could have devised better means of refuting his claim, it would certainly have employed them.

It was so late before we reached the place fixed upon for our landing, that I preferred sleeping in the boat, to walking six miles up to Catanzaro, in the dark, without a certainty of finding lodgings. A few hours, next morning, sufficed to examine every remarkable object in this capital of Nether Calabria.

Catanzaro was built in 963, by order of the Emperor Nicephorus Phocas, as a post of strength against the Saracens. Its situation on an eminence, in the pass between the mountains and sea, seems judiciously chosen for the purpose of repelling those Infidels, who, from Africa or Sicily, were wont to make good their landing at Reggio. Increase of inhabitants and of size caused it to be deemed a proper residence for the officers who compose the provincial tribunal; and, in 1593, it arrived at the dignity of capital, formerly the right of Reggio. At present, Catanzaro contains twelve thousand inhabitants, who live by the law, and the sale of corn, silk, and oil; of the last they export



export annually about ten thousand salme. The water of this place has an unpleasant taste, and a great deal of earthy sediment: the wine is very rough. The college of the late Jesuits is a handsome building, and possesses a good statue of St. Ignatius, by Fonseca; and a very fine picture, representing St. Bruno distributing bread to the poor. The first feudal investiture of Catanzaro, was from King Roger, to his son-in-law Hugh de Molines, Earl of Molise. The next, from the first Charles to Peter Ruffo, whose family was in possession down to the Aragonian reigns, when their estates went to Centeglia, and by him were forfeited.—Chaises can go no farther south than this stage; and indeed I do not comprehend how they can penetrate so far. From hence to Reggio, the generality of travellers are conveyed in litters, by a route which crosses the country, and runs along the shore of the Mediterranean.

In the afternoon, I rode ten miles to Squillacce, through a level, well-cultivated country, abounding in corn, pulse, maize, mulberries, and olives. The wages of a labourer are fifteen grana *per diem*; the soil, a fertile loam, full of broken shells. My guide led me, with an air of triumph, to admire what he called a Temple of the old Saints of Calabria. Upon inspection, it proved to be an edifice of Norman or Angevine times, with square towers at the corners.

## SECTION XLIV.

**S**QUILLACCE is built on the verge of a rocky mountain, sloping to the east, about three miles from the sea. I do not know why Virgil gives this city the epithet of *Navifragum*, “Breaker of Ships;” as there are no hidden or apparent dangers attending the approach of vessels. It is impossible this exact poet could be so careless, as to confound the attributes of the capacious bay of Scyllacæum, with the narrow pass of Scylla in the Faro of Messina. Perhaps those who explain the epithet by a tradition, that the first habitations of the place were built with fragments of the ship of Ulysses, may have stumbled upon a method of clearing up the difficulty.

In forming the body of Grecian commonwealths on the Italian shores, Athens furnished emigrants for Scyllacæum; but this settlement never made any figure in the confederacy\*. Rome sent a colony hither. In the year 982, the Emperor Otho the Second was defeated under its walls, by the forces of the Greeks; who, from this victory, conceived delusive hopes of compelling Italy once more to resume their yoke. Montfort obtained this lordship in fee from Charles of Anjou; but in the next reign it was given to the Marsans. This powerful house being overturned by the

\* Num. Scyll.—ÆR. 1. Cap. Merc. Φ=Prora navis ΣΚΥΛΛΑΤΙΩΝ.



Aragonese, the fief was bestowed upon that of Borgia, and is now vested in the Marquis Gregori, who, from being a commissioner of the victualing-office at Messina, rose to be Prime Minister of Naples, and afterwards of Spain. Though he knew how to secure the partiality of his sovereign, he was not able to conciliate the affections of the nation. A revolt in Madrid drove him out of the Spanish territories; and he has ever since resided at Venice, as Ambassador from the Court of Spain. The Neapolitans attribute many pernicious measures to his counsel, and detest him as the cause of their heaviest griefs and oppressions. We must wait for his death, and the subsiding of party-anger (the *recentia odia* of Tacitus), before we decide upon his criminality.

Squillacce prides itself on having given birth to Cassiodorus, a statesman of great abilities; and, considering the times he lived in, a very respectable author; beloved and honoured by Theodoric, and other Gothic monarchs. After passing through many high offices in the state, he fixed upon his native city for the retreat of his old age; and, in compliance with the then reigning fashion, took the habit of a monk, and spent the last years of his life in a cloister. In his letters to Maximus, he has left us many tokens of his attachment to Squillacce; and enlarges, with feeling and triumph, on its beauties and advantages. I walked to the mouth of the river Allefi, where this patrician had made a reservoir, or fishery, into which, by means of a canal, he introduced the sea-water. But I could find no distinct  
traces



traces of any such work, which probably has been filled up by floods, or eaten away by the dashing of the waves, during so long a period as one thousand two hundred years.

In the evening, I was disturbed by a violent noise; which, upon enquiry, I found was occasioned by the Marquis's bailiff kicking furiously at the door of the neighbouring house. This is the usual method of giving the last summons, without any farther hope of mercy, to a debtor or tenant that refuses to pay, and shuts himself up in his house for safety. If the defaulter be a friend, and indulgence intended in the prosecution, the officer strikes the door with his hand only. In any fray, if one of the combatants run away and lock himself up, and his adversary beat for entrance with his feet, it is understood that he is incensed beyond measure, and means to give no quarter: even children, in their little broils, observe the same distinction. This explains Horace's meaning\*, when he says, that Death beats with impartial foot the doors of palaces and of cottages: he thereby implies, that he is inexorably bent on exacting the debt of nature, and not, as some commentators suppose, that he makes use of the foot, merely because his hands are employed in holding the scythe and hour-glass.

Other allusions in that Poet may be elucidated by reference to customs still in force throughout Calabria.

\* Pallida mors æquo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas  
Regumque turres. —————

His account of the hardy education and filial obedience of the Roman youth\*, in former times, is still exact with respect to the young Calabrian peasant. After hoeing the ground all day, with no better fare than bread and water, seasoned with a clove of garlic, an onion, or a few dried olives, he does not presume to present himself before his mother, without a faggot of lentiscus, or other wood, which he throws down at the door, ere he offers to pass the threshold. A wise administration, under an ambitious monarch, might train up this race to be once more the conquerors of nations. Patience under penury, hardship, and hunger,—symmetry and strength of limb, and an ardent, fierce spirit, still exist in the mountains of the kingdom; but it would require a very fortunate combination of circumstances, with great judgment and resolution, to bring these qualities properly into action.

Horace's animated description of a mother longing for the return of her son†, may still be applied to the Calabrian matrons. If the feluccas do not appear at the usual

\* —Rusticorum mascula militum  
Proles, Sabellis docta ligonibus  
Versare glebas, et severæ  
Matris ad arbitrium recisos  
Portare fustes.—

† Ut mater juvenem, quem Notus invido  
Flatu Carpathii trans maris æquora  
Cunctantem spatio longius annuo  
Dulci distinet a domo,  
Votis omnibus hunc et precibus vocat,  
Curvo nec faciem littore demovet.—

term of their annual voyage, the mothers and wives of the sailors offer up incessant vows and prayers, call upon the beloved person by name, and remain at their windows, with eyes fixed on the Cape which the bark is to double. The instant a boat is seen coming round the Point, the whole town resounds with joyful cries of "Barca, Barca!" The boys ring the bells, and, as soon as they can distinguish what felucca it is, run to the relations, to claim beverage for the good news.

Dionysius of Syracuse, in hopes of disuniting the confederates of Magna Græcia, attempted to build a wall or rampire across the isthmus; but troubles in Sicily called him away before he could complete the work.

We passed below Stellati, a town of one thousand two hundred souls, on a hill composed of pebbles and mineral particles, glued together by a viscous earth:—it contains some fine specimens of marcasites. As we advanced southward, the country fell off in beauty, and the soil in richness, from a mellow loam to a poor blue clay. The cotton fields have not the wholesome appearance of those farther north. The landscape, however, revives near the banks of the Calipari or Eloris, where Dionysius defeated the allied Greeks. We slept at Monasterace, a poor village on an eminence. The road to it was good, except near the torrents, which, in great numbers, roll down from the mountains, and tear the plain to pieces. The desolate aspect of the country may be ascribed at least as



much to the scarcity of cultivators, as to the badness of the soil.

On the seventeenth, we came to Gerace, through a very unpleasant tract of land along the coast. A bare, ugly ridge of hills closes in the plain on the west, and frequently comes quite down to the beach. We crossed innumerable streams, the banks of which were no doubt marked, in ancient times, by many a bloody encounter between Greeks and barbarians, or between the different Grecian states, who were continually undermining their common fabric by intestine dissensions. It is now very difficult to ascertain the precise position of ancient rivers and towns; but it might certainly be accomplished with more accuracy than has yet been done by any geographer whatever.

We left Stilo on our right, remarkable for a rich convent of Carthusians; an Order which, in its very infancy, struck a good root in this kingdom, by the favour of Roger, the great Earl of Sicily, a very particular friend of their founder St. Bruno. These roots spread vigorously, and grew to an enormous size, as to riches and extent of possessions; but the spirit of the times threatens them with a speedy lopping, if not a total eradication. Not far from this place is a mine of iron, now quite abandoned.

On our left was Cape di Stilo, a promontory which, with Cape Spartivento, forms the bay of Locri. Castelvetero, in a lofty situation, three miles from the sea, occupies the site of Caulon, of which some vestiges are said to exist.

exist. I saw none that have any claim to such remote antiquity.—Caulon was one of the earliest Greek settlements, as its coins evince, being incusi; which was undoubtedly a mode of coining of very ancient date\*. This city was demolished, and its inhabitants removed to Sicily, by Dionysius, four hundred years before the Christian æra. Nearer the sea is La Roccella, a fief of the Caraffa family†,

\* Nummi Caulonorum.

ARG. 1. Figura virilis nuda diadem. stans d. supra caput elatâ telum vibraturâ l. extensâ, cui superstat icuncula genuflexa; subtus cervus KATAO.=Incussus.

2. Eadem figura, &c. sine epig.=Cervus. laurus. sup. dorsum ΑΥΑΧ.

3. Vir nud. fulmin. l. monilia ten. Φ=Cervus KATAONIATAN.

4. Vir fulm. cervulus KAT.=Cervus. vas. Φ. KATAONIAT.

5. Cervus. ramus Α KAT.=Vir fulm. cervulus KATAO.

6. Vir fulm. cervulus. KATA.=Cervus. arbor ΑΥΑΧ.

† This family came originally from the Caraccioli, and is equal to any in the realm in riches and consideration. It is divided into two branches; one of which gives a steelyard for its badge; the other, a bush of thorns. The last emblem was adopted in consequence of a tournament held by Charles the Second, in the suburbs of Naples. The son of that Prince, who was King of Hungary, took great offence at the Caraffas, for giving a shield barry, argent and gules, which are the Hungarian coat of arms; and insisted upon their being excluded the lists, unless they altered their bearing. To obviate all difficulties, the knights of this family cut some branches out of a hedge, and tied them across their bucklers; a distinction which has been kept up by their descendants. Antonio Caraffa, surnamed Malizia, made himself very conspicuous as a politician, in the reign of Joan the Second. In 1680, Gregory was elected Grand Master of Malta. But the Caraffa that made the greatest noise in the world, was Pope Paul the Fourth; one of the most turbulent, haughty priests, that ever ascended the chair of St. Peter since the days of Gregory the Seventh, that famous trampler on all pretensions of kings, and liberties of people. Paul and his nephews were, during the course of a few years, the disturbers of Europe, and continually employed in exciting sovereigns and subjects to some bloody and fanatical act of violence. At his death, he was declared an enemy to Rome; and all his statues and coats of arms were broken and thrown into the Tyber.

built on a rugged eminence overgrown with the *Opuntia*, or African fig. The natives eat the fruit, and plant out the slips as a fence to their gardens.

No author has clearly determined the situation of the river Sagra so renowned for the defeat of the Crotoniates by a handful of Locrians. Those who take it to be the Alaro, seem to come nearest the truth.

#### SECTION XLV.

**G**ERACE is poorly built, on a hill of coarse granite rocks and stiff clay; the road to it steep and difficult; the vale below is well cultivated, and yet does not produce corn enough to answer the demands of the Geracians, though their number amounts but to three thousand. They make good wine, which has the valuable quality of recovering its flavour and spirit by proper keeping, long after it seems to have lost both. This city is supposed, by most writers, to stand upon the identical site of Locri, the capital of the Epizephyrian Locrians. Some antiquaries place the old town nearer the sea at Pagliapoli, where many scattered ruins still remain. The brick materials with which they were built, pronounce them of a later period than the happy days of Magna Græcia. One large well-preserved room distinguishes itself above the rest, but no part has any inscription, column, or ornament. I was at first inclined to think, that



that Locri had been situated in the plain, which afforded greater conveniencies for business, and that the citadel had been built on the hill of Gerace; but as Strabo says expressly, that the city stood on the brow of a hill called Esopis, the buildings along the shore can only have been suburbs, magazines, and habitations for fishermen. In those early days of navigation, every angle of a coast, projecting rock, island, or river's mouth, constituted a port; and therefore we must not be surprised, if we are often at a loss to discover any traces of the ancient harbours we read of. Locri had, no doubt, some safe retreat for galleys and row-boats, though nothing now appears but an open road. Without a few remarkable monuments to guide us, it is not easy to discover the true position of any ancient town on this coast. The difficulty arises from a progressive change of dwelling. Adventurers, on their first landing, provided for their security by seizing upon some elevated inaccessible rock, where they could bid defiance to the natives, as well as to any strangers that might venture to land on the coast. As soon as increase of numbers gave them sufficient powers for an attempt to enrich themselves by conquest or commerce, they descended from their mountainous fastnesses, and erected commodious cities in the fertile plains along the shore. The full tide of human prosperity lasts but a moment; and every state, when once it has reached the highest point of glory and power, must, by the natural course of things, be hurried back with the ebb to its original obscurity. This

vicissitude was experienced by the Grecian cities of Italy. Deprived of liberty by the Romans, they soon saw the number of their citizens dwindle away; and then they found, that a too extensive circuit of walls in an open country exposed them to continual insults by sea and land. Unwholesome vapours, the effects of depopulation and neglected husbandry, completed their ruin; and the feeble remnants of their inhabitants retired for health and safety to the tops of the neighbouring mountains, where they built towns that resembled aeries of birds of prey, rather than mansions of the human race. As peace and security return, as agriculture and trade meet with encouragement, we behold the inhabitants forsake their useless castles, and venture once more into the plains.

A colony from Locris in Greece founded the commonwealth of Locri in Italy, to which Zaleucus gave a code of laws, esteemed by all the Greeks a master-piece of legislation. He was the first that committed his institutions to writing, and fixed certain bounds to penalties and punishments, which, in all laws promulgated before his time, were left to the discretion of the judges. Like all the followers of Pythagoras, he supported the simplicity of his decrees by unalterable inflexibility, of which he is said to have made his own family feel the effects, rather than derogate from the letter of the law. Jealous of innovation, he enacted, that whoever had a new law to propose, should appear in the assembly of the people with a rope round his neck,

neck, to be strangled immediately, if the proposals were rejected. The Locrians entered into an alliance with the Sicilian tyrants, and received the younger Dionysius into their city when he fled from Syracuse. The villain repaid their hospitality with the blackest ingratitude. By artifice and force, he acquired an absolute dominion over them, and exercised it in a brutal manner, by insulting their wives and daughters, and plundering their property. Upon his departure for Sicily the Locrians vindicated their rights, and wreaked their vengeance on his wife and children. This commonwealth possessed an ample territory, and respectable force, in proportion to the rest of the Greek states; but after it was subdued by Rome, faded away like a plant wounded at the root, oppressed and ruined by the cruelty and avarice of its governors\*.

I cannot

\* Nummi Locrensiū.

AUR. 1. Caput Jovis laur. ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.=Aquila leporem disc. ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

ARG. 1. Cap. Jov. laur.=Aquila lep. disc. ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

2. Fulmen-caduceus ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.=Aquila lep. disc.

3. Cap. imb. diad. tæda.=Aquila fulm. inf. ramus. Α. ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

4. Cap. barb. laur. ΝΕ.=Figura stans stolata coron. impon. cap. figuræ urbis sedent. ΑΟΚΡΩΝ—ΡΩΜΑ ΠΙΣΤΙΣ.

5. Cap. Palladis gal. arcus ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.=Pegasus Α.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Palladis gal.=Racemus ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

2. Caput mul. spica.=Pallas stans d. haf. f. clypeum. cornuc. stella ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

3. Cap. Viril. laureat.=Pallas stans d. haf. f. cly. Α. ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

4. Cap. Pall. gal. ΑΕΤ.=Fig. mul. sedens d. pat. f. sceptrum tripus ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

5. Cap. Pall. gal.=Pegasus ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

6. Cap. Mul. diad.=Aquila fulm. inf. corona ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

Y y

7. Cap.



I cannot learn at what precise time the present name was given to the city, but as its Bishop is called Hieracensis in the eighth century, I suppose it became common about that period. Gerace was always a place of strength. In the course of a family quarrel among the Norman Princes, Guiscard was betrayed and taken as he attempted to surprise it; and had the Geracians been suffered to follow their inclinations, would have lost his life; but Roger, though his enemy, rescued him out of their hands, and by this signal service regained his brother's friendship.

This was one of the numerous baronies lavished by Charles of Anjou on the Montforts. Under the Durazzian line, it was acquired by the Carraccioli, and is now held by the Grimaldi of Genoa, with the title of Prince.

In the evening I joined a crowd that was dragging a woman to church, in order to have the devil driven out of her by exorcisms. She was a middle-aged person, and seemed to be in very strong convulsions, which every body present firmly believed to proceed from a demoniacal possession. The priest refusing to come, some of the assistants grew impatient, and pulled the woman about so very roughly, that

7. Cap. Jovis laur. ΔΙΟΣ.=Fulmen ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

8. Cap. Pall. duo glob.=in coron. cornu. ΑΟ.

9. Cap. Cereris spic. coron. spica.=Pallas stans d. hastam f. clyp. cornuc. stella. ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

10. Capita Dioseur. jugat.=Jupiter fed. d. avem f. baculum. cornuc. ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

11. Cap. Pall.=Fulmen ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

12. Cap. vir. laur.=Mars stans d. hast. f. clyp. ΑΟΚΡΩΝ.

Belzebub thought proper to decamp. The patient rose up, and though confused and panting for breath, very soon recovered her senses, and ran away full speed to her own house. From which circumstances I inferred, there was more roguery in her case than real disorder.

All convulsions of the kind are attributed to assaults of malignant spirits. Near fifteen hundred women, pretending to be tormented by these imps, go up annually to Soriano, to be cured of the possession by looking at a portrait of St. Dominick, sent down as a present from the celestial gallery. By these pretexts, they obtain from their tyrannical spouses leave to make this pleasant pilgrimage, and a pair of holiday shoes, without which it would be highly disrespectful to present themselves before the holy picture. A priest of that convent told me a story of a female demoniac, who, after going through the usual course of cure, was sent to confess her sins to him. As he was perfectly well acquainted with the common tricks, he ordered her to give him the true reason of her acting that farce, and threatened her, in case of obstinacy, with a visit from a real devil, who would torment her in good earnest. The poor woman, terrified to death at the menace, frankly acknowledged, that having been married by her parents against her inclinations to a goatherd, who stank intolerably of his goats and cheeses, she abhorred his approach, and feigned possession to avoid cohabiting with him. Having thus wormed the secret out of her, the priest, in hopes of alleviating her misfortune, sent



for her husband, and as he knew it would be in vain to attempt to argue him out of a belief of the devil's being in his wife, he planned a different mode of attack, and informed the simple fellow, that he had discovered what particular kind of spirit it was; that this dæmon was remarkable for an outrageous antipathy to goatherds, and that no exorcisms could prevent him from plaguing them. The poor man, whose first profession had been gardening, and whose success in the other line of business had not been very great, readily consented to return to his old way of labour, if that would keep Satan out of his house. The friar procured a garden for him, and a chapman for his flock, and soon had the happiness of seeing the married couple well settled, and perfectly satisfied with each other.

We rode next day twelve miles, through a disagreeable low country, which, from the poorness of its clayey soil, and the bad look of its corn, may be pronounced unfavourable to the purposes of agriculture. The next six miles were over hills of wretched aspect, composed of hungry clay laid upon beds of round pebbles, minerals, sand, and shells cemented together. After a weary ride through execrable roads, we stopped at one of the worst-looking villages I ever beheld. It is called Bianco, from the chalky hill it stands upon, and consists of houses built of stone and mud, covered with tufted boughs. The appearance of every thing about it was so dreary, the looks of the villagers so squalid, and the evening so stormy, that I was glad to remain in my



smoky crib, and comfort myself with some white-wine of a strong body and flavour, though rather too great a degree of roughness. My quiet was disturbed by the danger of my guide, whose hand was bitten by a viper, as he was climbing over an old wall. The symptoms were very quick and violent; but the landlord removed them by applying a red-hot iron to the wound, and thoroughly scarifying round it. He said the coldness of the weather had benumbed the serpent, and rendered the venom less virulent than it would have been in a hot day. He mentioned a relation of his, whose head had swelled to a prodigious size from his having sucked the place where a viper had bit one of his children; but the swelling went off with fomentations.

## SECTION XLVI.

*May* } WE descended the mountain at the hazard of  
*19th.* } our lives, by a miry narrow road, buttressed  
 up with posts, over which are laid wooden bridges that  
 quiver with the pressure even of a foot traveller. As it had  
 rained very hard all night, our leader prudently preferred a  
 longer way by the sands, to a short cut through the moun-  
 tains. We crossed the isthmus of Cape Bruzzano, where  
 the Locrians first landed, and remained four years before  
 they moved northward. The low grounds are extremely  
 rich in herbage, and produce spontaneously thick crops of  
 sainfoin,

sainfoin, which are not turned to proper account; half the grass is suffered to rot on the ground for want of cattle to consume it. Oleander, and many other beautiful shrubs, line the banks of the torrents, near some of which I found roots of the Calamus Aromaticus, Acorus, or sweet Flag, besides many other rare plants; but in the hurry of a journey, which had not botany for its sole object, their names have escaped my memory. I am confident a regular search in these wastes, would afford botanical observers a treasure of curious and medicinal vegetables. I dined at Brancalone, a small village; and afterwards rode to examine Cape Spartivento, the most southerly point of Italy. It is surrounded by small islands, and numerous rocky shelves, on which the waves break with great fury as they are driven down the freights. From this angle we struck into the mountains; and after much fatigue reached the city of Bova, where a letter procured me a very polite reception from one of the Canons.

Bova is placed on the brow of a hill, and being out of the way of trade and thoroughfare, can boast of neither wealth nor agriculture. Most of the inhabitants are of Greek origin and rite. I do not mean that they can trace their pedigree up to the old republicans of Magna Græcia, for all such filiations have been cut off, and confounded in the darkness of many revolving ages. These people are of a much later importation, having emigrated from Albania only a few centuries ago. I was desirous of obtaining every



possible information about them, and shall bring into one point of view all I have learned at different times concerning their history.

When we recollect, that a very large portion of the kingdom was once inhabited or governed by Greeks, and understand that the Grecian rite has been in force in many parts of it, and still is so in some, we naturally incline to suppose a continued possession, and the Greek church established here by prescription; but the fallacy of our conclusions will appear upon reflecting, that, when Christianity began in Italy, scarce the smallest trace could be discovered of Grecian laws, customs, or language. Polybius, two hundred years before, speaks of them as old or former establishments. Cicero mentions them as being already obsolete; and we learn from Strabo, that except three cities which retained some faint idea of them, all the rest of Magna Græcia was become completely Roman in tongue, habits, and jurisprudence. The inscriptions found in the Neapolitan state clearly prove it. If any vestiges might be discerned during the reign of Augustus, they were certainly very soon after obliterated by the introduction of colonies, and a series of domestic wars. From these premises it follows, that when a patriarch was established at Constantinople, there existed no particular connexion between this country and Greece; but the Neapolitan provinces formed, with the rest of Italy, part of the immediate jurisdiction of the Bishop of Rome. They followed the Latin rite till the eighth century, when Leo Isau-  
ricus



ricus compelled the subjects of his Italian dominions to renounce all obedience to the see of Rome, and join in communion with the Constantinopolitan patriarch. The Norman conquerors, through zeal and policy, restored this province to the Pope's authority, thereby the better to annihilate all union with the Greek interest. In the fifteenth century, almost every trace of the Greeks was lost, except some faint traditions and resemblances of customs, when the following series of events brought a new colony into Italy.

George Castriot, Prince of Epire or Albany, better known among us by the name of Scanderbeg, the bulwark of Christendom against the Turks, received a considerable and timely succour from Alphonfus the First. In return, he ten years afterwards, in 1460, crossed the Adriatic, defeated John of Anjou, and established Ferdinand the First on the Neapolitan throne. That grateful King presented him with many large fiefs, and invited the Epirotes to settle in his dominions. The death of Scanderbeg removed every obstacle to the Turkish conquests, and John his son fled to Naples for refuge. He was received with open arms, lands were assigned to his followers, and exemption from taxes granted them, with many other privileges, of which some shadow still remains. These strangers fixed their abode in various provinces, but chiefly in Calabria, from a prospect of superior advantages, by being under the protection of Irene Castriota, married to San Severino, Prince of Bisignano.

nano. The Albanese continued to come over so late as the reign of Charles the Fifth, and their numbers increased very sensibly. At present, they amount to a hundred thousand at least, dispersed in a hundred villages or towns; but many of these settlements are wretchedly poor, and much decayed: those in the neighbourhood of Bova remarkably so. The villagers carry corn, cheese, and cattle to Reggio; but that being a poor mart, has but small demands, and little circulation of money. Their common language is Albanese. The men can speak Calabrese; but the women, who neither buy nor sell, understand no tongue but their own, which they pronounce with great sweetness of accent. This Albanian dialect is quite different from the modern Greek and Slavonian languages, though they are spoken by all the nations round Albania. It is worthy of remark, that this jargon, which has been known in Europe upwards of a thousand years, should be so little attended to, that it still remains without an alphabet, and many of its sounds are not to be accurately expressed either by Latin or Greek letters. From this singularity we may infer, that it is a mixture of the dialects of those Tartarian hordes that overran Macedonia and Greece in the eighth century; to which medley the intercourse with Germans, Italians, and Crusaders, has added a variety of foreign terms. The roots of this language are unconnected with those of all other European ones, but it abounds with words borrowed from old and modern Greek, Latin, Slavonian, Italian, French,

Z z

German,

German, and, what is very extraordinary and past accounting for, many English terms employed in their native signification, with some variation in the declension and pronunciation\*.

The Greek rite is now observed in the province of Confinza alone, the Ministry and Bishops having, by degrees, persuaded or compelled the other Albanese to conform to the Roman liturgy and discipline. The Latin Diocesans found it, no doubt, inconvenient to be charged with the direction of a foreign nation, of whose customs, language, and ceremonies they did not choose to confess their ignorance. Moreover, a total want of instruction had plunged the Epirotic colonists into such a state of barbarism, that at last there was not a priest to be found among them, who knew Greek enough to perform divine service in that language. To remedy these disorders, and preserve his native worship, Monsignor Rodatà, Librarian of the Vatican, prevailed upon Clement the Twelfth to found a college at

\* These words among others:

Aunt	Crab	Let	Rip
Boor	Door	Leg	Sea
Breeches	Dream	Lofty	Sheep
Breast	Feather	Lose	Stir
Cow	Grumble	Milk	Sight
Cool	Gape	Mushroom	Shame
Chimney	Hunt	Meal	Tickle
Chide	Hunger	Mud	Uncle
Cough	Knee	Open	Wood
Can	Leave	Run	You.

This Catalogue was given me by D. Pasquale Baffi, an Albanese.

St. Bene-



St. Benedetto Ullano, in Upper Calabria, for the education of the young Greeks who wished to dedicate themselves to the service of the church. He was himself consecrated an Archbishop *in partibus*, and sent to lay the first stone of this Italo-Greco-Corfinian feminary. Diplomas, immunities, and privileges were heaped upon the establishment, the property and jurisdiction of many villages purchased for it, sixteen thousand crowns expended upon the buildings, and a thousand ducats a year set apart for the provision of the Bishop. He acts as president of the college; but in his episcopal powers is subordinate to the Latin Prelate of Bisignano, without whose licence he cannot confer orders on his students. There is, besides, a parish-priest and a schoolmaster. The rest are boarders at twenty crowns a year. Two Dominican friars read lectures of moral philosophy and scholastic divinity; but whenever they touch upon the five famous propositions in dispute between the two churches, the zeal of their ancestors breaks out in the scholars, who seldom hear them enforced without betraying some tokens of disgust. Rodatà died too soon for the good of his settlement;—abuses crept in, and the temporal concerns of the house have, of late years, been egregiously mismanaged.

These Albanese are a quiet industrious people, and their women remarkable for regularity of conduct. In their dress they preserve the costume of Illyricum, from whence their forefathers came. The most beautiful women are

generally given in marriage to clergymen, and are exceedingly proud of their husbands; for among them priesthood is the highest nobility. When an ecclesiastic dies, his widow never enters into a second engagement, because none but a virgin can aspire to the hand of a priest; and any other is beneath her acceptance.

## SECTION XLVII.

FROM Bova I travelled thirty miles along the shore to Reggio. As soon as the morning mists were dispelled by the rising sun, I had a view of Sicily, where *Ætna* towered above all other mountains, with a slender line of smoke flying from its top in a horizontal direction, as far as the eye could reach. We breakfasted at a farmer's house in a poor, but well-situated village, called Amendolia. Here we descended into the plain, and crossed the river Alice, the ancient boundary of the Locrian state. Immense quantities of anchovies frequent the mouth of this stream and the adjacent coast; it is therefore very likely, that either the fish derived its Latin name *Halec*\* from the river, or the river was called after the fish. At Pentedattolo, a pretty village, I found the state of agriculture much better than what I had hitherto seen in this province. The

\* The Italian name of both is Alice.



A Plan of the City and Port of TARANTO,  
anciently *TARENTUM*, in the Province of *Ugento*.

The map shows the city of Taranto, Italy, situated on a peninsula. The harbor is labeled 'MARE PICCOLO'. The city is labeled 'TARANTO'. The map includes a scale bar indicating 'Scale of two Miles' and a compass rose. The map is titled 'A Plan of the City and Port of TARANTO, anciently TARENTUM, in the Province of Ugento.'

P I C C O L O



1. City of Toronto	30. Gate of Tancos, and Bridge	46. Il rivello	26. Ruena brook & filling Mill	34. Supposed line of the walls of Taranon	40. S. Lucia
2. Fortrain	31. L'az-corno	49. P'romontory of Tanna	27. La Tahudohara	35. P'eschiziu	41. (Narvini)
3. Tower of Raymond (Vrzing)	10. Capuchins	20. Bain of P'anne & old bridge	28. Stream called Ponticello	36. S. Maria Maurina	42. S'ant
4. Gladd	12. Anchor	21. Le vor	29. Il front	37. Itzzone e Theshi	43. Tonnulle
5. Gate of Tanc	13. Magazines	22. Canal of Taranon	30. Ezzo di tualon	38. Tadi Thaput	44. Le crume
6. Cathedral	14. Pond	23. Ruena brook, & filling Mill	31. La S'ubula	39. Supposed line where Hannibal drew his Galles over land	45. Ory Cariduez
7. Lomatus	15. Old Aqueduct	24. Gates of Dinto	32. Road of Thulle		46. Taranon
8. Il T'igle, the ditch opened in 1735	16. Tale of Cinczette	25. Il punto	33. Road to Montegranare and ruined aqueduct		47. Alcantari
	17. Stream called by some, the Gadesus				48. Combrani

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|--|--|---------------------------------|---|---|------------------|
| 1. City of Toronto                     | 30. Gate of Tancos, and Bridge         | 46. Il rivello                  | 26. Ruena brook & filling Mill                  | 34. Supposed line of<br>the walls of Taranon                  | 40. S. Lucia     |
| 2. Fortrain                            | 31. L'az-corno                         | 49. Phrenary of Tanna           | 27. La Tahudohara                               | 35. Pechizic  | 41. (Narwan)     |
| 3. Tower of Raymond (Vring)            | 10. Capuchins                          | 20. Bain of Ponne & old bridge  | 28. Stream called Ponticello                    | 36. S. Maria Maurina  | 42. Saitil       |
| 4. Gladd                               | 12. Aqueduct                           | 21. Le vor                      | 29. Il front                                    | 37. Itzzone e Theshi  | 43. Tonnulle     |
| 5. Gate of Tanc                        | 13. Magazines                          | 22. Canal of Taranon            | 30. Eiro di tianon                              | 38. Tadi Thaput   | 44. Le cranie    |
| 6. Cathedral                           | 14. Pond                               | 23. Ruena brook, & filling Mill | 31. La S'ubhi                                   | 39. Supposed line where Hannibal<br>drew his Galles over land | 45. Ory Cariduez |
| 7. Lomatus                             | 15. Old Aqueduct                       | 24. Gates of Dinlo              | 32. Road of Thulle                              |   | 46. Taranon      |
| 8. Il T'igle, the ditch opened in 1735 | 16. Tale of Cinzezz                    | 25. Il punto                    | 33. Road to Montegranare<br>and ruined aqueduct |   | 47. Alcantari    |
|  | 17. Stream called by some, the Gadenes |                                 |   |   | 48. Combrani     |





ground is managed with more skill and neatness, and consequently productive of greater crops. Its hemp is the best in Calabria. The hills that border upon these flats, consist of chalk and clay, mixed with rocks, formed of ferruginous particles, talk, and small pebbles. The farmers were busy with their harvest, but seemed to lose much time from a scarcity of hands. Near Montebello, we passed over the last Point of the Apennines, at the Capo dell' Armi, where the mountainous ridge sinks into the sea, to rise again on the Sicilian shore at Taormina, in an oblique line. The opinion which was generally held by the ancients, that Sicily was formerly part of Italy, torn from it by some violent concussion of the globe, has been rejected by Cluver and others, upon their not being able to trace any corresponding angles and congenerous strata on the different sides of the freights. Their ill success in this search arose from their mistaking the direction of the mountains. They denied the original juncture, because they found no traces of it between Capo dell' Armi and the heights behind Cape Peloro; but, upon a more accurate survey, they would have discovered that the mountains of Taormina correspond, in composition and shape, with the extremity of the Apennine, and that the high lands of Cape Vaticano point towards the eminences north of Messina.

The soil of this promontory is light, and the stone white, which is, no doubt, the origin of its Greek name, *Leucopetra*, white rock.—The aspect of the country is wild, and bare of trees, but covered with lentiscus, the common fuel of the neighbourhood.

neighbourhood. The face of the rocks is divided by narrow streaks of pebbles inclining to the horizon. The road is excellent for horses; the prospects enchanting. The traveller has under his eye the beautiful Faro of Messina, and the fertile plains of Reggio, contrasted with a bold chain of mountains that stretches away to the north-east. On descending to the west, we entered upon a scene utterly different from what I had been long accustomed to. Instead of hills and marshy shores, with little population, or appearance of industry, I now came to a rich delicious garden, shaded by groves and avenues of poplars and mulberry-trees, divided by hedges of pomegranates, inclosing vineyards and orchards of orange, citron, and various other kinds of aromatic fruit. Vegetables of all sorts abound under the shade of these perfumed plantations; but hemp is chiefly cultivated, as being the most lucrative, though its emanations are supposed to be pernicious. Copious streams meander through these agreeable plains, and distribute life and vigour to every plant. On each side of the road are houses erected for the accommodation of silk-worms, upon a particular plan of construction. The windows are long, and not above six inches wide. This narrowness prevents too great a quantity of air being admitted at a time, which would overpower the tender insects. When the eggs are on the point of being hatched, these holes are shut, and a moderate fire kept up in the rooms. The worms, as soon as they come out, are placed upon beds of reeds, and there fed  
with



with leaves of the mulberry-tree, which, in this district, is invariably of the red sort. It is preferred to the white-fruited kind, as being a later shooter, and better adapted to the periods of the worm's life, which would be endangered from late changes of weather, if forced out of its shell at the time the white mulberry produces its leaves; besides, it is the opinion of the silk-workers, that worms fed with the red mulberry, produce a more compact heavy silk, than those that live upon the leaves of the white one. I am apt to think this a vulgar prejudice, unwarranted by experience, as the Chinese, Piedmontese, and Languedocians prefer the white sort. I was surprised to see the Calabrese bring up their silk-worms so tenderly; for I should have thought their climate warm and constant enough to allow them to leave the worms upon the trees, as they are treated in the southern parts of China; but I was told, that many experiments had been made, without success, to discover a method of preserving them in the open air. In order to provide food for them in case of a blight among the mulberry-trees, other leaves have been tried, and bramble tops have been found the best succedaneum. In the management of this produce, the Calabrese are much inferior to the Tuscans, who, though many degrees farther north, contrive to have two hatchings, or seasons, in a year. These silk-worm-houses are the property of reputable families in Reggio, who furnish rooms, leaves, eggs, and every necessary implement; take two-thirds of the profit, and leave the other for  
the

the attendants. A succession of eggs is imported from Leghorn, and other places, to renew the breed, and by frequent changes keep up the quality of the filk. Great care is requisite to prevent lizards from entering these apartments. If they get in while the worms are employed in their functions or transformations, they will destroy great numbers, by running to and fro along the shelves.—The natural and powerful enemy of the lizard, is the large black snake so common in Italy. The sight of one of them will scare away all lizards, and therefore is very agreeable and serviceable to the filk-dealers, who accept it as a happy omen, and scream out, *Good luck! good luck!* whenever they see one of these reptiles creep into their house. To secure a good filk year, they offer a part of the produce to the saint of the parish, who sometimes gets a fifth share from these zealots. Mariners, employed in exporting this commodity in barks, lay aside a bale of filk for their particular patron; but if there fall any rain to spoil the cargo, the saint is supposed not to have fulfilled the reciprocal agreement, and accordingly loses all claim to his portion.

All the pods must be carried to public caldrons at Reggio, and there pay a duty for boiling and winding off. As the winders work by the pound, they perform their task in a more slovenly, careless manner, than they would do were they paid by the day. After the filk is drawn off, forty-two grana and a half per pound are exacted, even though the owner should keep it for his private use.

Nothing

Nothing can be more unfair than this tax, as the weight is set down while the merchandise is wet and heavy. The tyranny of excise is still carried greater lengths, for the poor wretches are forced to pay one grana a pound for the refuse and unprofitable pods, and two carlini a year for every mulberry-tree growing in their grounds. This odious, absurd imposition was planned, by the Marquis of Squillace, contrary to every wise principle of administration, and with many other vexations has checked this advantageous branch of commerce, discouraged the farmers, and caused hundreds of valuable trees to be cut down to save the duty. In general, the profits of the silk trade in this country centre in the Barons and Revenue-officers. The former by monopoly, and the latter by exactions, oblige the poor merchants to smuggle for a livelihood, and, to the great detriment of the royal receipt, the excisemen find it their interest to connive at the practice.

## SECTION XLVIII.

THE approach to Reggio is charming; for every cottage of the suburb is shaded with a beautiful arbour of vines, loaded with clusters of grapes, that produce a very good sort of wine.

Oranges, and their kindred fruits, arrive at great perfection in these plains, which are said to be the first spot in



Italy where their culture was attempted, and from which it was extended over the country. They are found to be much harder than was at first suspected, many large plantations thriving at the foot of the Apennines, twenty miles from the sea, where in winter there is often frost enough to congeal water. The Rheggians carry on a lucrative traffic with the French and Genoese in essence of citron, orange, and bergamot. This spirit is extracted by paring off the rind of the fruit with a broad knife, pressing the peel between wooden pincers against a sponge; and, as soon as the sponge is saturated, the volatile liquor is squeezed into a phial, and sold at fifteen carlines an ounce. The caput mortuum is eaten by oxen, and the pulp serves to make syrup. There is a small sort of citrons set apart for the Jews of Leghorn, who come every year to buy them for three tornesi a piece. As they are destined for some religious ceremonies, the buyers take great care not to pollute them by a touch of the naked hand.

The olives of Reggio are large and pulpy. They are much admired by those who relish a high flavour; but to those who have been accustomed only to eat the Provence sort, they appear too strong. The exportation of oil brings into Calabria-ultra half a million of ducats annually.

Before the Saracens were driven back to their original habitations on the Arabian and African sands, the environs of this city were adorned with stately groves of palm-trees. Many of these trees were felled by the Christians out of a  
whimsical

whimsical hatred to the plant, as if it had been an appurtenance of Mahometism. The Infidels themselves, on their retreat, destroyed all the male-palms, except such as grew within the walls. There are some trees standing in the city which annually produce several pounds of dates; but most of them fall off before they ripen, and are eaten by the hogs. It has been remarked, that in seasons wherein the Scirocco, or other southerly winds blow for a long continuance, the dates ripen better and sooner than usual. Perhaps the great quantity of warm moisture and dust scattered over them by those winds, resolves the natural refractoriness of the fruit, by causing an uncommon heat and fermentation. A similar precocity is observed in figs growing near a dusty road. It is supposed that the sprinkling of lees of oil would hasten the maturation both of figs and dates.

Figs here have a fine flavour; those of Felugaso and Mammola are the best. The gardeners of this province do not follow the Levantine method of caprification, which is performed by carrying an insect from the wild tree to the cultivated one, in order to procure impregnation by the dust or pollen that sticks to the feet and body of the fly, as the wild fig alone bears male flowers: nor do they ripen this fruit as the Neapolitan cultivators do, by touching the eye of it with a feather dipt in oil. The Calabrian figs come on very well without these helps, though the wild plant, abounding every where, affords opportunity for

3 A 2

caprification,

caprification, if required. When the Calabrese are desirous of raising fig-trees from seed, a method less in use than slipping, they gather a quantity of wild figs, string them upon pack-thread, and hang them over the cultivated ones on the tree, till both are half-dried by the sun. In October they split the garden fruit, and rub it very hard upon a rope. When the rope is covered with seeds, they bury it a few inches under ground; and in a short time a plentiful crop of seedlings appears, which must be grafted, as they are all wild, or at least of a mongrel breed.

The first Platanus ever seen in Italy was brought from Sicily by Dionysius the tyrant, and planted in his garden at Reggio. The Musa and Ananas grow very well out of doors here. The Prince of Scilla was, I believe, the first in this part of the world that cultivated the pine-apple. He treated it in the beginning with great chariness and precaution; but, upon trial, found a bolder management suit it better.

The hills, that skirt the great chain of mountains, abound with chestnut-trees, producing very large and sweet fruit, which the inhabitants dry, grind, knead into a paste, and use in lieu of bread.

Between Reggio and Scilla a silver mine was opened by the present King of Spain; but the vein lying in a granite rock that dips considerably towards the sea, as if dragged down by the sinking of the streights, was not sufficient to cover the expences, and therefore abandoned. I believe  
this



this bad success may also be attributed to the unskilfulness and laziness of the miners. Large quantities of ore were stolen, and at last all the works destroyed, by the negligence of the overseers, who left the furnaces lighted when they went away. The buildings took fire, and were entirely consumed; and the whole stock reduced, by the violence and continuance of the flames, to a state of vitrification or calcination.

Reggio can boast of neither beautiful buildings nor strong fortifications. Of its edifices the Gothic cathedral is the only striking one; but it affords nothing curious in architecture. The citadel is far from formidable, according to the present system of tactics; nor could the city walls make a long resistance against any enemy but Barbary corsairs:—and even these they have not always been able to repel; for, in 1543, it was laid in ashes by Barbarossa; Mustapha sacked it fifteen years after; and the desolation was renewed in 1593, by another set of Turks. Its exposed situation, on the very threshold of Italy, and fronting Sicily, has, from the earliest period, rendered it liable to attacks and devastation. The Chalcidians seized upon it; or, according to the usual Greek phrase, founded it, and called the colony Rhegion, from a word that means a break or crack; allusive of its position on the point where Sicily broke off from the continent. Anaxilas oppressed its liberties. Dionysius the Elder took it, and put many of the principal citizens to death, in revenge for their having  
3 refused

refused his alliance. The Campanian legion, sent to protect the Rhegians, turned its sword against them, massacred many inhabitants, and tyrannized over the remainder ; till the Roman senate thought proper to punish these traitors with exemplary severity, though at the same time it entered into league with the revolted garrison of Messina. This union with a set of villains, guilty of the same crime, proved that no love of justice, but political reasons alone, drew down its vengeance on the Campanians\*.

I en-

\* Nummi Reginorum.

- ARG. 1. Facies leonis=Fig. vir. sed. in cor. ONICINON.  
 2. Fac. leo.=Cap. mul. laur. PHGINON.  
 3. Fac. leo.=Cap. vitulinum. RECINON.  
 4. Fac. leo.=Flos PH.
- ÆR. 1. Cap. mul. averfa modio coron.=Jupiter sed. d. haft. tripus PHGINON.  
 2. Cap. Jovis laur.=Mulier stans d. patera serpentem pascit. III. PHGIN.  
 3. Cap. Dianæ=Fig. vir. stan. in brach. avem. d. ramum. f. baculum. cornucop. PHGINON.  
 4. Cap. Dia.=Leo gradiens PHGINON.  
 5. Cap. Apoll. laur.=Tripus PHGINON.  
 6. Cap. Apoll. & Dian. Jug.=Tripus PHGINON.  
 7. Cap. Dian. P.=Tripus PHGINON.  
 8. Cap. Dian.=Lyra PHGINON.  
 9. Fac. leonis=Lyra. luna PHGINON.  
 10. Fac. leon.=Tripus PHGINON.  
 11. Cap. Pall. gal. gryps in gal.=Minerva stans d. Victoriæ. f. haft. & clyp. fulmen II. PHGINON.  
 12. Cap. imb.=Fig. vir. nuda sed. d. sagittam f. arcum. II. PHGINON.  
 13. Cap. Apoll. K. PHGINON=Leon. facies.  
 14. Cap. Apoll.=Vir nud. stans d. ramum sup. tripod. f. hastam.  
 15. Cap. viril. Jugata=Vir stans avem d. arborem f. PHGINON.  
 16. Cap.

I enjoyed several delightful walks along the beach. Wherever a hole is made in the sands, though within a foot of the sea, fresh water bubbles up. The views on every side are enchanting, equal to the charming ones of the Neapolitan gulf, and superior to all others that I have ever seen. Messina rises out of the waves like a grand amphitheatre; and the Faro, lined with villages and towns, seems a noble river, winding between two bold shores.

Sometimes, but rarely, it exhibits a very curious phænomenon, vulgarly called *La Fata Morgana* \*. The philosophical reader will find its causes and operations learnedly accounted for in Kircher, Minasi, and other authors. I shall only give a description of its appearance, from one that was an eye-witness. Father Angelucci is the first that mentions it with any degree of accuracy, in the following terms :

“ On

16. Cap. Jug. Dioscura=Mercurius stans d. ramum. f. caduc. III. PHFINQN.

17. Cap. Jug. Dioscur.=Vir nud. stans d. avem & ramum. f. arborum. IIII. PHFINQN.

18. Cap. vir. laur. idolum PHFINQN.=Cap. vir. laur. clava. PHFINQN.

19. Cap. Jug. Apoll. & Dianæ=Mul. stol. stans d. duas spicas f. bacul. luna. IIII. PHFINQN.

20. Fac. leon.=Corona RECI.

21. Fac. leon.=RECINON.

\* The name is probably derived from an opinion, that the whole spectacle is produced by a Fairy or a Magician. The populace are delighted whenever the vision appears, and run about the streets, shouting for joy,—calling every body out to partake of the glorious sight.



“ On the fifteenth of August, 1643, as I stood at my  
 “ window, I was surpris'd with a most wonderful, delect-  
 “ able vision. The sea that washes the Sicilian shore  
 “ swelled up, and became, for ten miles in length, like a  
 “ chain of dark mountains; while the waters near our  
 “ Calabrian coast grew quite smooth, and in an instant  
 “ appeared as one clear polished mirror, reclining against  
 “ the aforesaid ridge. On this glass was depicted, in  
 “ *chiaro scuro*, a string of several thousands of pilasters, all  
 “ equal in altitude, distance, and degree of light and shade.  
 “ In a moment they lost half their height, and bent into  
 “ arcades, like Roman aqueducts. A long cornice was  
 “ next formed on the top, and above it rose castles innu-  
 “ merable, all perfectly alike. These soon split into  
 “ towers, which were shortly after lost in colonnades, then  
 “ windows, and at last ended in pines, cypresses, and  
 “ other trees, even and similar. This is the *Fata Mor-*  
 “ *gana*, which, for twenty-six years, I had thought a mere  
 “ fable.”

To produce this pleasing deception, many circumstances  
 must concur, which are not known to exist in any other  
 situation. The spectator must stand with his back to the  
 east, in some elevated place behind the city, that he may  
 command a view of the whole bay; beyond which the  
 mountains of Messina rise like a wall, and darken the back-  
 ground of the picture. The winds must be hushed; the  
 surface quite smoothed; the tide at its height; and the  
 waters

waters pressed up by currents to a great elevation in the middle of the channel. All these events coinciding, as soon as the sun surmounts the eastern hills behind Reggio, and rises high enough to form an angle of forty-five degrees on the water before the city,—every object existing or moving at Reggio will be repeated a thousand fold upon this marine looking-glass; which, by its tremulous motion, is, as it were, cut into facets. Each image will pass rapidly off in succession, as the day advances, and the stream carries down the wave on which it appeared.

Thus the parts of this moving picture will vanish in the twinkling of an eye. Sometimes the air is at that moment so impregnated with vapours, and undisturbed by winds, as to reflect objects in a kind of aerial screen, rising about thirty feet above the level of the sea. In cloudy, heavy weather, they are drawn on the surface of the water, bordered with fine prismatical colours.

## J O U R N E Y

FROM

## R E G G I O T O N A P L E S.

## SECTION XLIX.

**T**HE heat I had experienced in Calabria determined me to defer my voyage to Sicily till the ensuing winter. I therefore took my passage for Gallipoli in a French ship ready to sail from the Straits; and on the twenty-second, about sunset, we got under way. A heavy Scirocco, that rose in the night off Cape Spartivento, rendered the passage unpleasant; but carried us briskly and safely to our destined port, where we arrived on the twenty-fifth.

Gallipoli stands on a rocky island, joined to the Continent by a bridge, near which flows a fountain of very  
pure



pure water. From the remotest antiquity this was a station so favourable to commerce, that every maritime power wished to secure it; and it is certainly a reproach to Government, that nothing has been done to improve its natural advantages:—at present it has neither harbour nor shelter for shipping. Charles the Second demolished Gallipoli, for its adherence to Frederick of Aragon. The Venetians treated it with great cruelty in the fifteenth century; and, in 1481, it was pillaged by the Turks. To preserve it from future calamities, Charles the Fifth repaired and strengthened its fortifications; and, since that period, it has enjoyed the benefits of peace and trade, which have rendered it the most opulent and gayest town upon the coast. Its inhabitants do not exceed six thousand in number; but they are easy in their circumstances, lively, and merry, and in general well-informed. Consumptions and spitting of blood are rather frequent here, occasioned by the great subtilty of the air, which is ventilated from every quarter. The buildings are tolerable, and some of the churches have good paintings.

The cotton trade brings in about thirty thousand ducats a-year. Good muslins, cotton stockings, and other parts of apparel, are manufactured here, and purchased by the Provençals; for Gallipoli has no direct trade with the metropolis. Silk and saffron were formerly objects of traffic; but heavy duties and oppression have caused them to be abandoned. The wine of this territory is good; but

from dryness of climate, and shallowness of soil, the vintage frequently fails in quantity; and then the Gallipolitans have recourse to Sicily for a supply. Oil is the great support of this place:—two-thirds of the produce of its olive plantations are exported to France, and the north of Italy; the remainder is sent to Naples, and other ports of the kingdom. It appears by the books of the Custom-house, that in 1766 \*, eleven thousand four hundred and fifty-nine salme were shipped off for national markets, and thirty-five thousand four hundred and ninety-three salme for foreign ones. This quantity cannot be valued at less than a million of ducats; but the profits to the venders are much curtailed by a duty on exportation.

Neapolitan merchants, by means of agents settled at Gallipoli, buy up the oils, from year to year, long before an olive appears upon the tree. The price is afterwards settled by public authority; a mode of evaluation extremely favourable to the traders, and prejudicial to the land-owner, who is attached to the soil, and indeed seldom considered by Government. The Neapolitans sell their oil to the merchants of Leghorn; and, if faithfully served by their factors in Terra di Otranto, ought to double their capital

\* I fix upon 1766, as being the year mentioned in Reidesel's evaluation, which I have good authority for correcting. His accounts are, one thousand three hundred and ninety-five lasts, or thirteen thousand nine hundred and fifty salme, for home trade; and seventeen thousand three hundred and twenty-three lasts, or one hundred seventy-three thousand two hundred and thirty salme, for foreign countries.

in two years. But, to balance this advantage, they run great risks, pay exorbitant interest, and have frequent bankruptcies to guard against.

About three miles due west, is a small island, level with the water, almost barren. Wherever the soil is deep enough, it produces short grass, renowned for giving a most exquisite flavour to mutton. This rock is a very convenient station for fishing, and is resorted to by flocks of sea-fowl.

On the twenty-seventh, I set out for Naples; making a little deviation from the direct road, to see Nardo and Otranto. Near Gallipoli, cultivation is in a flourishing state; though the rocks are very shallowly covered with earth. In this province, the rent of arable ground varies prodigiously; rather according to the degrees of population than those of fertility. For example,—Brindisi possesses a spacious territory, rich in soil and natural advantages, free from baronial tenures and burthens: yet the best of its land does not let at ten shillings an acre; while the rocky but well-peopled Salentine peninsula, hampered as it is with feudal claims and drawbacks, gives at least double the rent.

The olive-tree is here attended to with the nicest care, and no trouble spared to increase its fruitfulness, or revive prolific vigour in plants that begin to feel the decay of age. In winter, the peasants bare the roots of the old trees, lay upon them a thin coat of litter, and leave them thus, during



during four months, to imbibe the restorative salts of the atmosphere. Few of them have any principal bole; for all predominant shoots are early cut out, that every part may derive equal benefit from the influence of the sun. Some husbandmen only stir the earth near the tree; others plough all the interstices, and raise profitable crops, though perhaps to the detriment of the olive plants. In this province, the fruit is neither beaten off the tree, nor gathered; but remains till it falls through ripeness.

Don Giovanni Presta has proved himself a zealous and valuable citizen of Gallipoli, by a long and attentive course of experiments upon the olive-tree, its fruit, and the method of making oil, with a view of increasing its quantity, and improving its quality. The common mode of making oil, is to crush the olives to a paste, with a perpendicular mill-stone running round a trough. This paste is put into flat round baskets, made of rushes, piled one upon another under the press. After a first pressure, scalding water is poured into each basket, its contents stirred up, and the operation repeated till no more oil can be skimmed off the surface of the tubs beneath. This method is liable to inconveniences; for the oil is seldom pure—keeps ill—and soon grows rancid. Don Giovanni employs other ways of extracting the liquor, which, though seemingly less effectual and more laborious, he thinks practice will prove to be full as expeditious as the mill, and much more advantageous to the vender, by the goodness of  
the

the oil. He recommends a process, performed by pounding the fruit in a mortar. He throws a handful of the crushed substance into a long woollen bag, which he rubs very hard upon a sloping board; he then wrings it; afterwards adds hot water, and continues to press, as long as a drop of oil can be drawn from it. This he supposes to have been the original mode of extraction, adopted by the discoverers of oil; and, if performed by a skilful, stout workman, to be much more effectual than the common one. He has examined the different species of olive-trees planted in his country, and appreciated their respective merits. The kind most commonly cultivated, and of oldest standing in the province, is by him called the Salentine Olive,—by the peasant, Ogliarola,—from the quantity of juice yielded by its fruit. A second sort, vulgarly named Faule, of which only a few are planted, bears a small olive kept for eating. The third is known by the names of Cellina, Scuranese, and Cascia:—its olives give less oil than the Salentine kind, in a proportion of two to three; but the tree grows to a greater size, resists weather better, and is also more fruitful,—for which reason it obtains the preference among the planters. He tried also a fourth species; but of which only one tree exists in his neighbourhood, and that a wild one. Contrary to the nature of all other olives, its fruit grows white as it ripens:—the ancients speak of such a kind. He has also procured scions of the best stocks from Tuscany. I am sorry to add, that as yet his efforts have been merely speculative,

speculative, for want of encouragement from those who alone can promote the public good to any extent. In Puglia, which abounds with cities and villages belonging to the Crown, and therefore more wealthy and independent than Baronial manors,—these trials may excite emulation, augment the cultivation of this valuable tree, and improve the manner of making oil, to the great emolument of King, planter, and merchant. I have little doubt but, with skill, the olives of this province may be made to give as fine oil as those of either Provence or Lucca. In Calabria the case is more desperate;—there feudal tyranny reigns paramount, and effectually clips the wings of industry:—there the custom of the manor obliges all vassals to grind their olives at the lord's mills\*, though their number is not equal to the business. The unfortunate wretches behold their fruit rot, and their oil evaporate from the fermenting heaps, while they must wait the pressing of the olives belonging to the Baron and his lessees, or to such proprietors as can afford to bribe the millers.

At the distance of a few miles from the town, there is a good deal of woodland, where sportsmen find very good diversion. Gentlemen hunt hare, fox, and sometimes wild boar, with hounds or lurchers, and sometimes with both. In autumn, fowlers use nets, springes, or birdlime; in winter, guns. All the country is free to whoever buys

\* They pay for every grinding, or Macina, two carlini. A Macina consists of eight baskets, of thirty Neapolitan rotoli each.



the King's licence, except some few inclosures, where the Barons endeavour to preserve the game. Hawking has of late years been quite laid aside.

## SECTION L.

**N**ARDO lies nine miles north of Gallipoli; the road to it good and pleasant, with a fine view of the sea. In this little city are eight thousand inhabitants. The steeple of its cathedral is built in a very uncommon, but shewy stile of Gothic architecture. Luca Giordano and Solimeni have adorned the church with some agreeable paintings. This place was part of the Balzo estate. The Aquavivas were the next possessors:—they are thought to have come from the Marca di Ancona. In 1401, in consideration of their relationship to Pope Boniface the Ninth, Ladislaus erected their manor of Atri into a dukedom; an honour till then seldom granted to any but princes of the blood royal\*. Claudius Aquaviva, a famous general of the Jesuits, who died in 1615, was of this family.

\* Since that period, honours have been so lavishly bestowed, that, about the beginning of the last century, the single kingdom of Naples reckoned fifty Princes, sixty-three Dukes, one hundred and six Marquisses, and sixty Earls; besides Barons, who all held of the Crown *in capite*, and took their titles from their fiefs.—In 1703, the numbers were, one hundred and twenty-four Princes, two hundred Dukes, two hundred Marquisses, and forty-three Earls.

The breadth of the peninsula, from Nardo, is about thirty-five miles : the road through an open country, interspersed with some coppices of a small jagged-leaved oak. We passed near many villages ; but I saw nothing in any of them worth my attention. As we approached the Adriatic, the landscape grew dreary, from the great quantity of loose stone walls, by which the fields are divided. Near Otranto, the gardens, being full of orange-trees, have a more pleasing appearance. A rivulet, running into the sea, close to the walls, still retains its ancient name of Hydro.

Otranto is small, stands on a hill, and contains only three thousand inhabitants. Its little harbour is not so bad, but it might induce more people to settle here ; as no port on the coast lies so convenient for traffic with Greece. The Adriatic Gulph is here but sixty miles wide. I climbed to the top of a tower, to get a sight of the Acroceraunian Mountains ; but a vapour hanging over the sea, along the horizon, hid them from my view : in a clear morning, their snowy tops are said to be very visible. The cathedral of Otranto is Gothic, and, according to the Puglian fashion, has its subterraneous sanctuary. The columns are of beautiful marbles and granite ; the pavement, a rude species of Mosaic, commonly called Saracenic. As it is to be met with in all churches founded by the Norman Kings of Sicily, the artists who laid it were probably Saracens, or at least Greeks, their scholars.—These mosaics are composed of pieces of porphyry, serpentine, and cubes of gilt glass,—  
8 disposed

disposed in stars, circles, or checquers. The compartments of the stalls are bordered with them; and the small twisted columns, which support the pulpits and canopies, are ornamented with a spiral stripe of the same work. It is a pity so much durability, compactness, and beauty of materials, should have been lavished on such barbarous designs.—Otranto was a Roman colony, as is certified by an inscription, almost the only monument of antiquity left there\*. In the tenth century, it was made an archbishop's see. In 1480, Laurence de Medici, to deliver himself from the attacks of the King of Naples, persuaded Mahomet the Second to invade the realm; and Otranto was the unfortunate place where the Turks landed. It was invested, stormed and pillaged. Its Prelate was slain at the door of his church; eight hundred principal citizens dragged out of the gates, and butchered; their bodies left twelve months unburied, till the Duke of Calabria retook the city, and committed them to hallowed earth. About a hundred years after, a devout person affirmed, that these bones had appeared to him in a dream; and, upon the strength of his vision, they became, for the vulgar, objects of almost equal veneration with the relics of the primitive martyrs.

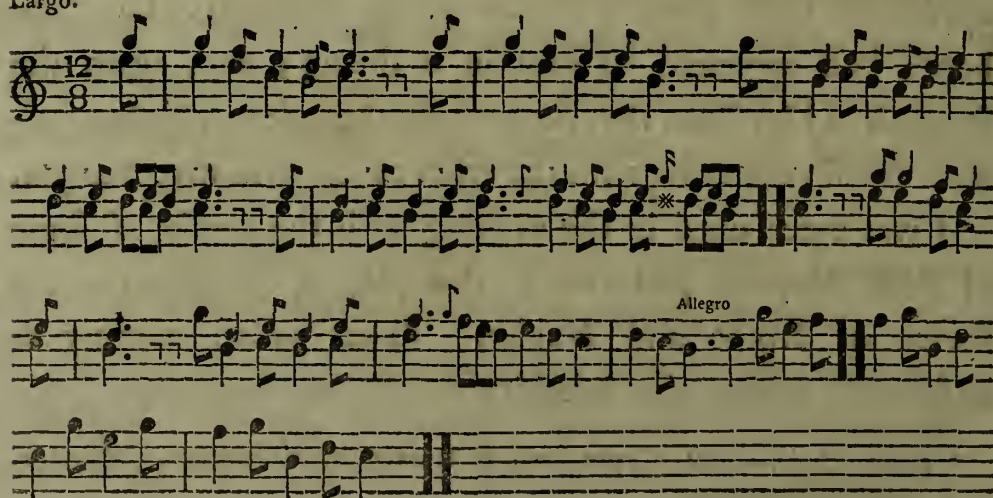
I was entertained in the evening with the music of some of those itinerant performers, that play at Christmas in the streets of Rome and Naples. Their native country is Basilicata, where the inhabitants of the Apennines learn

\* Num. Hydr.—ÆR. Caput barb. & laureat. ΤΑΡΟΝΤΙΝΩΝ. = Tridens, cum duobus delphinibus.



from their infancy to wield the mattock with one hand, and the flageolet or bagpipe with the other. In these savages of Italy, music is not merely an art of pastime or luxury, but a talent awakened by necessity. Their usual employment is hoeing out drains, to draw the water off the land; but as there is not every year, nor in all seasons, a superabundance of rain, they take up their musical instruments for a maintenance, and, in small parties, travel over Italy, France, and Spain. Some have penetrated even into America, and returned from thence with great comparative riches, earned by their pastoral melody. Their concerts are generally composed of two musicians, who play on very long, large bagpipes, in unison:—I mean as to the tone, because one is always an octave higher than the other; while a third musician sounds a kind of hautboy, and, at the end of each ritornel, chants a rural ditty, to which the bagpipes play an accompaniment. The airs are all nearly alike, upon the model of the following Pastorale or Siciliana.

Largo.



The

The trifling differences depend upon a greater or lesser vivacity in the performers, who are wont to embellish the common tune with variations, out of their own fancy. Every air, however, is composed of two characters: the ritornel is cheerful; the vocal part, slow and mournful. The instruments are all made by the shepherds themselves, in those forms and sizes which tradition has handed down to them, and experience has taught them to imitate.

My route to Lecce lay by the side of a large pond, that communicates with the sea. All around, for many miles, reigns one entire waste, productive of nothing but the holme oak, or *ilex coccifera*. These bushes were in full beauty, covered with the scarlet kermes, or false cochineal, which abounds in the same sort of country, in Andalusia and Languedoc. The Puglians seem ignorant that any use can be made of this shrub, except feeding their cattle with the leaves in winter, when other fodder fails. The villages on the road make a handsome shew, being built of white stone; but their churches are ornamented in a very barbarous stile. The face of the country is too rocky, and too bare of trees, corn, and grass, to be agreeable; and the prodigious number of stone walls would disfigure a much more fruitful one. Near the end of our ride, which was about twenty-four miles, the landscape became more lively, from a great quantity of gardens.

Lecce,.



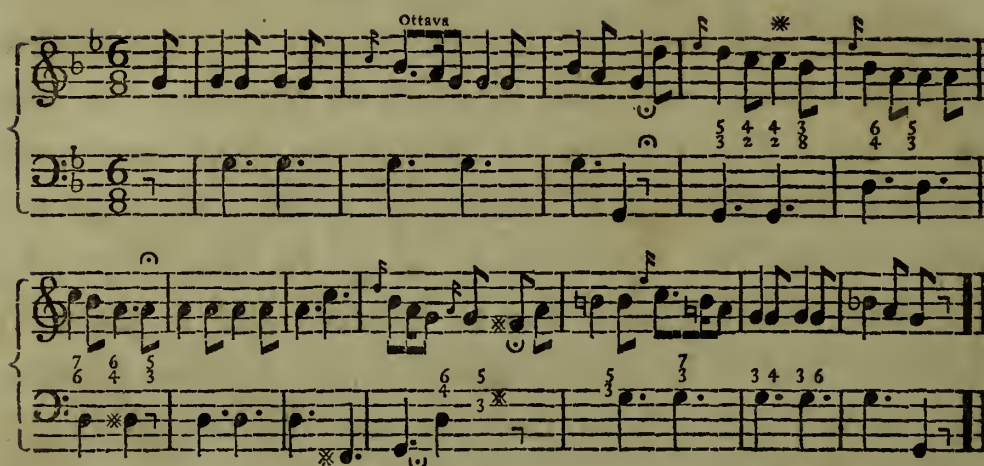
Lecce, the capital of Terra di Otranto, the seat of its tribunal, and the second city in the kingdom,—is better paved and built than any town in the province. If its architects had been possessed of the smallest gleam of taste, the buildings would have made a noble figure; for the stone of the country is of a fine white, so soft, when taken out of the quarry, that it may be moulded like wax, and will receive any form the slightest strokes of the chissel impress it with; yet, by remaining exposed to the air, very soon acquires a proper degree of consistency. No materials, therefore, can be more desirable for ornamental masonry, or more susceptible of regularity and nicety of juncture. But the fronts of the principal edifices are crimped into such crowded uncouth decorations, that I lamented that the Grecian arts ever returned into this country: for the architecture of the Goths and Saracens, with all its oddities, is the very perfection of beauty and good sense, when compared with these Corinthian and Composite extravagances at Lecce. The cathedral was erected by Tancred, before he ascended the throne; it is dedicated to Saints Cataldo and Nicholas, one of which is placed on a mutilated antique column in the great square. This fragment was brought from Brindisi, where its companion is still standing. Many of the paintings in the churches, and houses of the nobility, are by Verrio, a native of Lecce, long employed in England,—where his staircases and ceilings are admired for their perspective deception,



deception, and variety of figures, though deficient in correctness, choice, and other requisites of the art. He died in 1707.—The number of inhabitants does not reach thirteen thousand, very inadequate to the extent of the city. It has the reputation of being, to the rest of the kingdom, what Thebes was to Greece; and a native of Lecce is said to be distinguishable from his fellow-subjects, by the heaviness of his manner, and the dulness of his apprehension. I dare not be so rash as to pronounce upon this point; having had, during my short stay among them, very little opportunity of conversing with the Leccians, or appreciating their parts and learning. But I cannot suspect a city to be the seat of stupidity, that has an academy of Belles Lettres, and where some of the Muses at least meet with very sincere and successful admirers. Though the academy, from a want of royal protection, and proper directors, has of late confined its exertions to sonnets, and other absurd ebullitions of fancy; yet music is here cultivated with a degree of enthusiasm. Many of the nobility are good performers, and proud of exhibiting their skill on solemn festivals. The Leccian music has a very plaintive character, peculiar to itself. The Dilettanti sing stanzas to the following tune, which is a specimen of their style; and I have frequently heard Improvisatori chant their extempore verses to it\*.

\* Don Luigi Serio of Naples is a very great genius in that line, and much superior to the celebrated Corilla, so well known to all the English that have been at Florence.

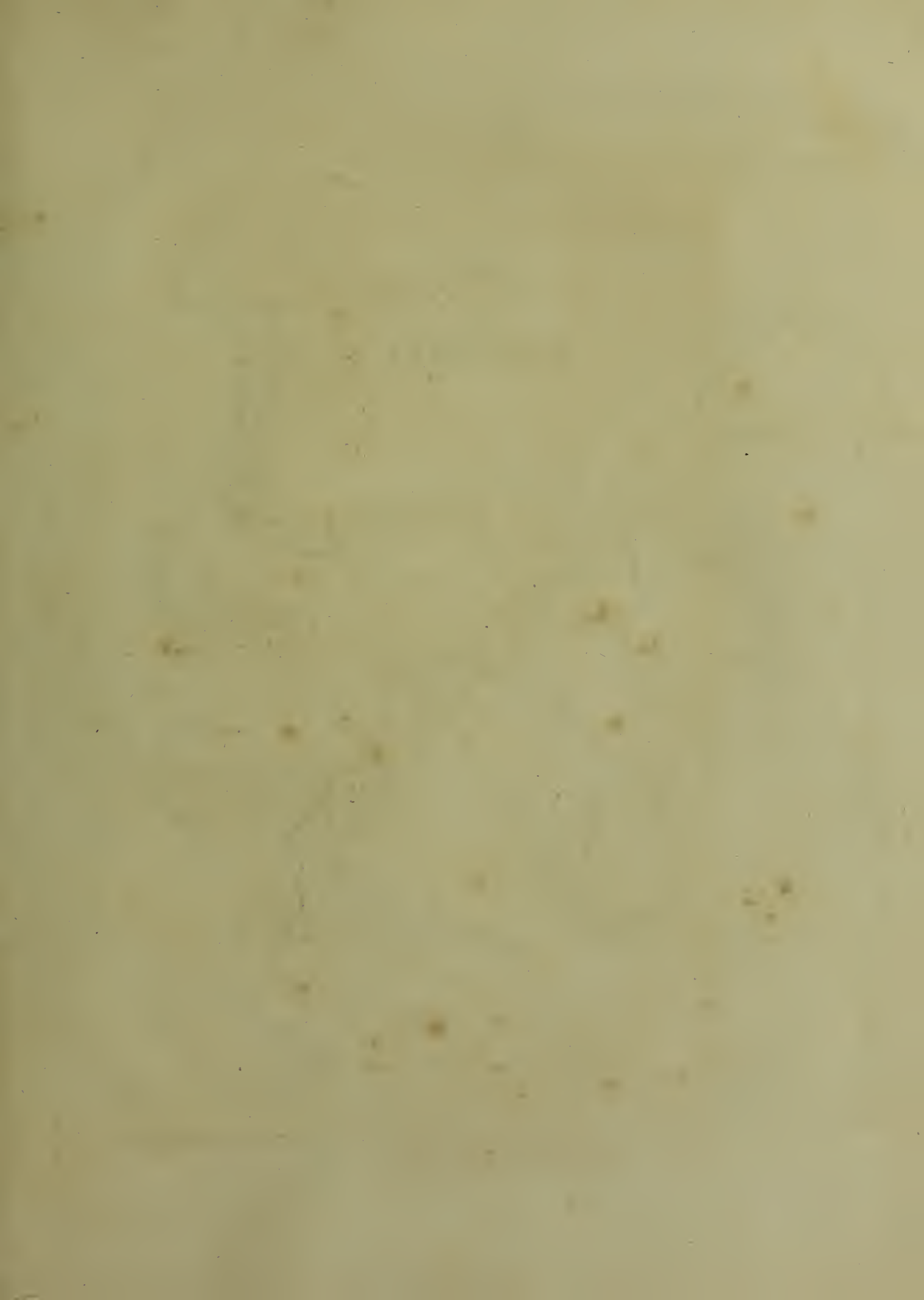
## JOURNEY TO NAPLES.



At or near Lecce, was the Roman colony of Lupiæ. Some geographers confound it with Rudia, the birth-place of Ennius, who flourished about two hundred years before Christ, and composed several poems, of which only fragments have escaped the ravages of time.

Very soon after the establishment of the Normans, Earls were enfeoffed with the manor of Lecce. The daughter of one of them bore to the eldest son of King Roger a natural son, called Tancred, who came at length to be King of the Two Sicilies. Before his election to the crown, he enjoyed the estate of his maternal ancestors, and was a great benefactor to this city. His daughter Albiria transferred the earldom to her husband Walter de Brienne, and the heiress of the Briennes married C. de Engenio. Mary, the last of that family was given in marriage by Lewis of Anjou, to Raymond Orfino the fortunate adventurer, who afterwards became Prince of Taranto. On the failure of his

posterity,



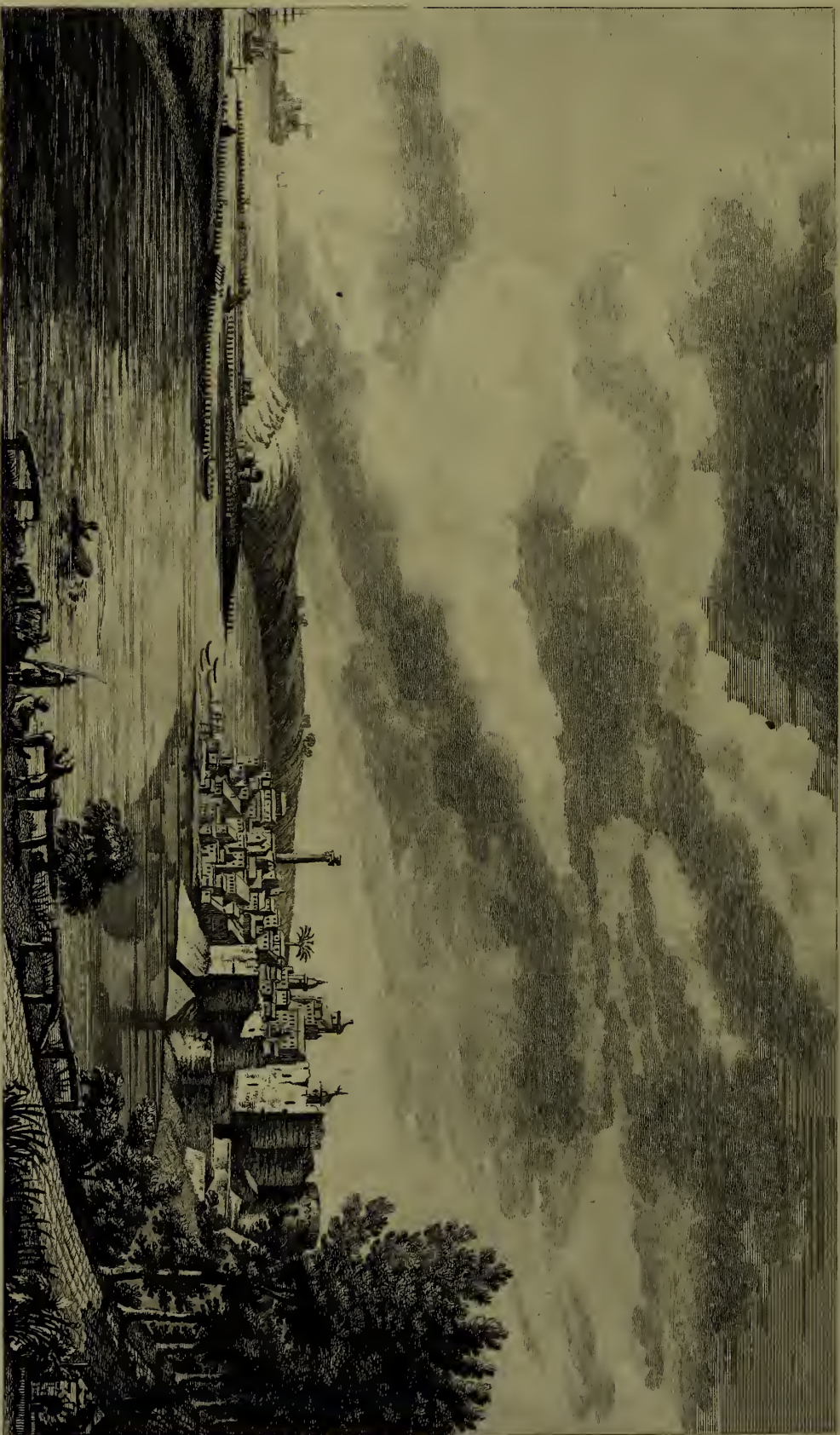


PLAN  
of the  
PORT and CITY  
of  
BRINDISI.









St. John's.

J. Wardell Sculp.

A VIEW of the CITY of BRINDISI the Anc<sup>t</sup> BRUNDISIUM taken from the NORTH WEST HEAD of the PORT.

1 The Theatre. 2 The Castle. 33 The Entrance lately cleared. 4 The Head of Land where Caesar began his Blockade. 5 The old Embankment.  
6 The Bottom of the Light House. 7 The Castle of Charles the V. 8 The old Roman Road.



posterity, Lecce fell, with the rest of their property, into the hands of the Crown.

From Lecce it is twenty-four miles to Brindisi, through an ugly tract of land, thinly peopled and poorly cultivated. The untilled part is over-run with beautiful shrubs. As we advanced, the country rather improved upon us, but still bore the marks of misery and depopulation.

## SECTION LI.

**B**RINDISI is a great city, if the extent of its walls be considered; but the inhabited houses do not fill above half the inclosure. The streets are crooked and rough, the buildings poor and ruinous; no very remarkable church or edifice. The cathedral, dedicated to St. Theodore, is a work of King Roger, but not equal in point of architecture to many churches founded by that monarch, who had a strong passion for building. The canons of this church retain the ancient custom of having handmaids; but as they take care to choose them of canonical age and face, we may suppose these *Focariæ* to be only chaste representatives of the helpmates allowed to the clergy before Popes and Councils had reprobated them. These women are exempted from taxes, and enjoy many privileges. When they die, they are buried gratis, and the funeral is attended

by the Chapter with great solemnity; which is a mark of respect it does not pay to any relations of the canons.

Near the port stand the walls of a palace erected by Walter de Brienne, in a very bad taste. Its materials are grey stone, divided at regular distances with broad courses of black marble\*. Little remains of ancient Brundisium, except innumerable broken pillars, fixed at the corners of streets to defend the houses from carts; fragments of coarse Mosaic, the floors of former habitations; the column of the light-house; a large marble basin, into which the water runs from brazen heads of deer; some inscriptions, ruins of aqueducts, coins, and other small furniture of an antiquary's cabinet. Its castle, built by the Emperor Frederick the Second to protect the northern branch of the harbour, is large and stately. Charles the Fifth repaired it.

The port is double, and the finest in the Adriatic. The outer part is formed by two promontories, that stretch off gradually from each other as they advance into the sea, leaving a very narrow channel at the base of the angle. The island of St. Andrew, on which Alphonfus the First built a fortress, lies between the capes, and secures the whole road from the fury of the waves. In this triangular space, large ships may ride at anchor. At the bottom of the bay the hills recede in a semicircular shape, to leave room for the inner-haven, which, as it were, clasps the city in its arms,

\* These walls have been since pulled down, and employed in the facing of the new canal.

or rather encircles it, in the figure of a stag's head and horns. This form is said to have given rise to the name of Brundisium, which, in the old Messapian language, signified the head of a deer. I think it probable that this harbour was produced by an earthquake, which caused the ground to sink, and the waters to run into the chasm; for all the hills round it are on an exact level, and have parallel correspondent strata. Nothing can be more beautiful than this interior port, or better adapted to every purpose of trade and navigation. It is very deep, and extends in length two miles and a half, in breadth twelve hundred feet in the widest part. The hills and the town shelter it on every side. The north ridge is prettily cultivated and planted, but that to the south is bare of wood, and all sown with corn. In ancient days, the communication between the two havens was marked by lights placed upon columns of the Corinthian order, standing on a rising ground, in a direct line with the channel. Of these one remains entire upon its pedestal\*. Its capital is adorned with figures of Syrens and Tritons, intermingled with the Acanthus leaf, and upon it is a circular vase, which formerly held the fire. A modern inscription has been cut upon the plinth. Near it is another pedestal of similar dimensions, with one piece of the shaft lying on it. The rest of the column was sold to the people of Lecce after the earthquake of 1456, which

\* It is of the sort of green and white marble called Cipollino.



threw it down, and destroyed great part of the city. The space between these pillars answered to the entrance of the harbour. The whole kingdom of Naples cannot shew a more complete situation for trade than Brindisi. Here goodness of soil, depth of water, safety of anchorage, and a central position, are all united; yet it has neither commerce, husbandry, nor populousness. From the obstructions in the channel, which communicates with the two havens, arises the tribe of evils that afflict and desolate this unhappy town. Julius Cæsar may be said to have begun its ruin, by attempting to block up Pompey's fleet. He drove piles into the neck of land between the two ridges of hills; threw in earth, trees, and ruins of houses; and had nearly accomplished the blockade, when Pompey sailed out and escaped to Greece. In the fifteenth century, the Prince of Taranto sunk some ships in the middle of the passage, to prevent the royalists from entering the port, and thereby provided a resting-place for sea-weeds and sand, which soon accumulated, choked up the mouth, and rendered it impracticable for any vessels whatsoever. In 1752, the evil was increased, so as to hinder even the waves from beating through; and all communication was cut off, except in violent easterly winds, or rainy seasons, when an extraordinary quantity of fresh water raises the level. From that period the port became a fetid green lake, full of infection and noxious insects; no fish but eels could live in it, nor any boat ply except canoes made of a single tree. They can  
hold

hold but one person, and overfet with the leaft irregularity of motion. The low grounds at each end were overflowed and converted into marfhes, the vapours of which created every fummer a real peftilence, and, in the courfe of very few years, fwept off, or drove away, the largeft portion of the inhabitants. From the number of eighteen thoufand, they were reduced in 1766 to that of five thoufand livid wretches, tormented with agues and malignant fevers. In 1775 above fifteen hundred perfons died during the autumn;—A woful change of climate! Thirty years ago, the air of Brindifi was efteemed fo wholefome and balsamic, that the convents of Naples were wont to fend their con-fumptive friars to this city for the recovery of their health. This ftate of mifery and deftruction induced the remaining citizens to apply for relief to Don Carlo Demarco, one of the King's minifters, and a native of Brindifi. In confe-quence of this application, Don Vito Caravelli was ordered to draw up plans, and fix upon the means of opening the port afrefh. Don Andrea Pigonati was laft year fent to execute his projects; and by the help of machines, and the labour of the galley-flaves, has fucceeded in fome meafure. The channiel has been partly cleared, and has now two fathom of water. It can admit large boats, a great ftep towards the revival of trade; but what is of more imme-diate importance, it gives a free paffage to the fea, which now rushes in with impetuofity, and runs out again at each tide; fo that the water of the inner port is fet in motion,

and

and once more rendered wholesome. The canal, or gut, is to be seven hundred yards long, and drawn in a strait line from the column. At present, its parapets are defended by piles and fascines ; but if the original plan be pursued, stone piers will be erected on both sides. Don Andrea, who received me with great politeness and hospitality, has the success of this undertaking extremely at heart ; and as he spares no pains, has money enough for his calls, and seems to be very well versed in his profession, it is to be hoped the patriotic wishes of his employers will not prove vain and delusory. If the defence against the sea be sufficient, and a proper method be followed for turning off the load of sand which every tide brings in, and naturally tends to deposit where the current draws it, this work will remain an honour to the Minister by whose direction it was undertaken, and to the engineers who have superintended it ; but it appeared to me, upon examining every thing very attentively, rather doubtful whether the work be properly secured against accidents, and whether a very considerable annual expence will not be necessary to keep it in order\*.

When the canal shall be scooped out to a proper depth, and its piers solidly established, vessels of any burden may once more enter this land-locked port, which affords room

\* I am sorry to find, by the last accounts I have received from that country, that the parapets have proved too weak to resist the violence of the sea ; that much damage has already been done, and great part of the channel once more choked with sand.



for a whole navy. Docks wet and dry may be dug, goods may be shipped at the quay, and convenient watering-places be made with great ease. If merchants should think it a place of rising trade, and worthy of their notice, there is no want of space in the town for any factory whatever. Circulation of cash would give vigour to husbandry, and provisions would soon abound in this market. The sands at the foot of the hills, which form the channel, are to be laid out in beds for muscles and oysters. Some ecclesiastics are raising nurseries of orange and lemon trees; and other citizens intend introducing the cultivation of mulberry-trees, and breeding of silk-worms.

The Engineer would have done very little for the health of Brindisi, had he only opened a passage, and given a free course to the waters; the marshes at each extremity of the harbour would still have infected the air; he therefore, at the expence of about a thousand ducats, had the fens filled up with earth, and a dam raised to confine the waters, and prevent their flowing back upon the meadows. The people of Brindisi, who are sensible of the blessings already derived from these operations, who feel a return of health, and see an opening for commerce and opulence, seem ready to acknowledge the obligation. They intend to erect a statue to the King, with inscriptions on the pedestal in honour of the Minister and Agents.

The workmen, in cleaning the channel, have found some medals and seals, and have drawn up many of the piles that

were driven in by Cæsar. They are small oaks stripped of their bark, and still as fresh as if they had been cut only a month, though buried above eighteen centuries seven feet under the sand.

The soil about the town is light and good. It produces excellent cotton with which the Brindisians manufacture gloves and stockings.

## SECTION LII.

**I**T is impossible to determine who were the founders of Brundisium, or when it was first inhabited\*. The Romans took early possession of a harbour so convenient for their enterprizes against the nations dwelling beyond the Adriatic. In the five hundred and ninth year of Rome they sent a colony hither. Pompey took refuge here; but finding his post untenable, made a precipitate retreat to Greece. In this city Octavianus first assumed the name of Cæsar, and here he concluded one of his short-lived peaces with Antony. Brundisium had been already celebrated for giving birth to the tragic poet Pacuvius, and about this time became remarkable for the death of Virgil. The Bar-

\* Nummi Brundisiorum.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Herculis imb. pel. leon. test. = Homo nudus delp. inequ. d. delp. f. lyr. ten. ΒΡΕΝΔΗΣΙΝΩΝ.

2. Cap. barb. laur. 1 glob. = Homo nud. delp. ineq. b. lyram. 1 glob. BRYN.

3. Cap. barb. laur. pone vict. cor. imp. tridens 1 glob. = Homo nud. delp. ine. d. Victor. f. cornuc. clava. 1 glob. BRYN.

barians,

barians, who ravaged every corner of Italy, did not spare so rich a town; and in eight hundred and thirty-six, the Saracens gave a finishing blow to its fortunes. The Greek Emperors, sensible of the necessity of having such a port as this in Italy, would have restored it to its ancient strength and splendour, had the Normans allowed them time and leisure. The Greeks struggled manfully to keep their ground; but, after many varieties of success, were finally driven out of Brindisi by William the First.

The phrenzy for expeditions to Palestine, though it drained other kingdoms of their wealth and subjects, contributed powerfully to the re-establishment of this city, one of the ports where pilgrims and warriors took shipping. It also benefited by the residence of the Emperor Frederick, whose frequent armaments for the Holy Land required his presence at this place of rendezvous. The loss of Jerusalem, the fall of the Grecian empire, and the ruin of all the Levant trade after the Turks had conquered the East, reduced Brindisi to a state of inactivity and desolation, from which it has never been able to emerge.

As I was now in the country of the Tarantula, I was desirous of investigating minutely every particular relative to that insect; but the season was not far enough advanced, and no Tarantati\* had begun to stir. I prevailed upon a woman, who had formerly been bitten, to act the part, and

\* Persons bitten, or pretending to be bitten, by the Tarantula.



dance the Tarantata before me. A great many musicians were summoned, and she performed the dance, as all present assured me, to perfection. At first, she lolled stupidly on a chair, while the instruments were playing some dull music. They touched, at length, the chord supposed to vibrate to her heart, and up she sprang with a most hideous yell, staggered about the room like a drunken person, holding a handkerchief in both hands, raising them alternately, and moving in very true time. As the music grew brisker, her motions quickened, and she skipped about with great vigour and variety of steps, every now and then shrieking very loud. The scene was far from pleasant; and, at my desire, an end was put to it before the woman was tired. Wherever the Tarantati are to dance, a place is prepared for them, hung round with bunches of grapes and ribbons. The patients are dressed in white, with red, green, or yellow ribbons, for those are their favourite colours; on their shoulders they cast a white scarf, let their hair fall loose about their ears, and throw their heads as far back as they can bear it. They are exact copies of the ancient priestesses of Bacchus. The orgies of that God, whose worship \*, under various symbols, was more widely spread over the globe than that of any other divinity, were, no doubt, performed with energy and enthusiasm by

\* I shall say nothing more on the subject of this universal worship, as it is treated in a most ingenious and satisfactory manner by Mr. D'Ancarville, who will soon favour the Public with his Work.

the lively inhabitants of this warm climate. The introduction of Christianity abolished all public exhibitions of these heathenish rites, and the women durst no longer act a frantic part in the character of Bacchantes. Unwilling to give up so darling an amusement, they devised other pretences; and possession by evil spirits may have furnished them with one. Accident may also have led them to a discovery of the Tarantula; and, upon the strength of its poison, the Puglian dames still enjoy their old dance, though time has effaced the memory of its ancient name and institution: and this I take to be the origin of so strange a practice. If at any time these dancers are really and involuntarily affected, I can suppose it to be nothing more than an attack upon their nerves, a species of St. Vitus's dance. I incline the more to the idea, as there are numberless churches and places throughout these provinces dedicated to that saint. Many sensible people of this town differ in opinion from Doctor Serao and other authors, who have ridiculed the pretended disorder, and affirmed, that the venom of this species of spider can produce no effects but such as are common to all others. The Brindisians say, that the Tarantulas sent to Naples for the experiment were not of the true sort, but a much larger and more innocent one; and that the length of the journey, and want of food, had weakened their power so much, as to suffer the Doctor, or others, to put their arm into the bag where they were kept, with impunity. They quote many

examples of persons bitten as they slept out in the fields during the hot months, who grew languid, stupid, deprived of all courage and elasticity, till the sound of some favourite tune roused them to dance, and throw off the poison. These arguments of theirs had little weight with me, for they acknowledged that elderly persons were more frequently infected than young ones, and that most of them were women, and those unmarried. No person above the lowest rank in life was ever seized with this malady, nor is there an instance of its causing death. The length of the dance, and the patient's powers of bearing such excessive fatigue in the canicular season, prove nothing; because every day, at that time of the year, peasants may be seen dancing with equal spirit and perseverance, though they do not pretend to be seized with the Tarantism. The illness may therefore be attributed to hysterics, excessive heat, stoppage of perspiration, and other effects of sleeping out of doors in a hot summer air, which is always extremely dangerous, if not mortal, in most parts of Italy. Violent exercise may have been found to be a certain cure for this disorder, and continued by tradition, though the date and circumstances of this discovery have been long buried in oblivion;—a natural passion for dancing, imitation, custom of the country, and a desire of raising contributions upon the spectators, are probably the real motives that inspire the Tarantati. Before Serao's experiments, the Tarantula had been proved

to



to be harmless, from trials made in 1693 by Clarizio, and in 1740 at Lucera by other naturalists.

The Tarantula is a spider of the third species of Linnaeus's fourth family, with eight eyes placed four, two and two; its colour commonly a very dark grey, but varies according to age and food. The bulk of its fore-part is almost double that of the hind part; the back of its neck raised high, and its leg short and thick. It lives in bare fields, where the lands are fallow, but not very hard; and, from its antipathy to damp and shade, chooses for its residence the rising part of the ground facing the east. Its dwelling is about four inches deep, and half an inch wide; at the bottom it is curved, and there the insect sits in wet weather, and cuts its way out, if water gains upon it. It weaves a net at the mouth of the hole. These spiders do not live quite a year. In July they shed their skin, and proceed to propagation, which, from a mutual distrust, as they frequently devour one another, is a work undertaken with great circumspection. They lay about seven hundred and thirty eggs, which are hatched in the spring; but the parent does not live to see her progeny, having expired early in the winter. The Ichneumon fly is their most formidable enemy.

## SECTION LIII.

ON leaving Brindisi, I passed by the well at the head of the haven, which supplies the town with water. The view from this point takes in the port, column, a large palm-tree, churches, and castles, all objects of great picturesque beauty.

At a few miles distance, the Trajan way is easily traced as it crosses a hollow. It is raised to a level upon arches, built in the reticular or lozenge manner. Most of this day's journey to Monopoli, although forty-three miles long, was near the coast, through a wild country covered with varieties of ever-green shrubs. The small portion of ground in cultivation is sown with beans; but there is a cruel enemy that every year destroys the best part of the crop: this is the Orobanche or Broom Rape, a parasite weed that shoots up with beans, and other leguminous plants, mixes its roots with theirs, and, by drawing out all the nutriment, causes them to droop, pine, and die. The Pugliese call it La Sporchia. All their efforts to eradicate it have hitherto proved ineffectual; but I suspect they have gone very superficially to work.

At

At Bari I took the inland road by the ancient Via Egnatiana, which Horace travelled upon. We slept at Bitonto\*, a fine town of sixteen thousand inhabitants, much easier in their fortunes, and more polished and improved in their manners, than those that dwell in the cities along the coast; its markets are well supplied, and an air of affluence reigns in the place. The country between it and Bari, which is nine miles distant, is very much inclosed; and, though stony, fertile in corn, almonds, olives, wine, and fruit of all kinds. I found there was a general cry of famine throughout the country; but it was a want of snow, not of bread, that was complained of. Near this city an obelisk was erected by the present King of Spain, with four fulsome inscriptions in praise of himself, his father Philip, his soldiers, and the Count of Mortemar, who was honoured with the title of Duke of Bitonto for having defeated the Austrians on this spot in 1734. The engagement was a very trifling one; but as it cleared the kingdom of Germans, proved of essential service to the Spaniards. If the King wishes to transmit this event to posterity by a monument, he must build something more durable, for the present one is already disjointed, and crumbling to ruin. A most disagreeable stony road brought us to Ruvo, through a vine country. The pomegranate hedges in flower, and the holme oak loaded with

\* Nummi Butont.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Palladis = Arista BYTONTINON.

2. Noctua ram. inf. = Fulmen BYTONTINON.



kermes, enlivened the prospect, which otherwise would have been very dull. Near Quarata, another monument is to be seen, commemorating a victory gained there in 1503 by thirteen Italians over an equal number of French. They fought in lists upon a formal challenge, in consequence of some contemptuous expressions made use of by the latter. Each of the vanquished party was to forfeit one hundred ducats, his horse, and armour. The contest was not very obstinate; one Frenchman was killed; the rest made prisoners, and led away to Barletta, because they had not brought their ransom with them. The Italian authors extol this action as a most glorious achievement: the French accuse their adversaries of having displayed more trick and cunning, than valour, in the combat.—I here quitted the Roman way, and rode fifteen miles westward to Castel del Monte. The country I traversed is open, uneven, and dry. The castle is a landmark, and stands on the brow of a very high hill, the extremity of a ridge that branches out from the Apennine. The ascent to it is near half a mile long, and very steep; the view from its terrace most extensive. A vast reach of sea and plain on one side, and mountains on the other; not a city in the province but is distinguishable; yet the bareness of the fore-ground takes off a great deal of the beauty of the picture. The building is octangular, in a plain solid style; the walls are raised with reddish and white stones, ten feet six inches thick; the great gate is of marble, cut into very intricate ornaments, after  
the

the manner of the Arabians; on the balustrade of the steps lie two enormous lions of marble, their bushy manes nicely, though barbarously, expressed; the court, which is in the centre of the edifice, contains an octangular marble basin of a surprising diameter. To carry it to the summit of such a hill must have cost an infinite deal of labour. Two hundred steps lead up to the top of the castle, which consists of two stories. In each of them are fifteen saloons of great dimensions, cased throughout with various and valuable marbles; the ceilings are supported by triple clustered columns of a single block of white marble, the capitals extremely simple. Various have been the opinions concerning the founder of this castle; but the best grounded ascribe it to Frederick of Swabia\*. I dined and spent the hot hours with great comfort under the porch, which commands a noble view of the Adriatic.

In the evening I descended the mountain, and rode nine miles to Andria, a large feudal city, east of the Roman road. Andria stands on the edge of the inclosed country, and its environs being rather hilly, are far from unpleasant, though without any running water. This town was built

\* A Neapolitan gentleman found, in one of these rooms, a basso relievo representing this Emperor and his Chancellor Peter de Vineis, of which he had a copy taken in plaster. This settles the matter beyond a doubt. I did not discover this sculpture, nor hear of it till long after my return to Naples; but I saw another basso relievo of some warriors in Norman habits meeting a woman dressed after the Greek fashion.—As this stone appears to have been inserted into the walls since their first building, and bears the date of 1520, it casts no light on the history of the place.



by Peter the Norman, and acquired its name from the antra or caverns in which the first settlers abided. Conrad the Fourth was born at Andria, where his mother, the Empress Iole Queen of Jerusalem died in childbed of him; and here also lies buried Isabella of England, another wife of the Emperor Frederick. Beatrix, daughter to Charles the Second, had Andria for her portion on marrying Azzo D'Este Marquis of Ferrara. This Prince dying, she took for her second husband Bertrand Del Balzo, progenitor of the Dukes of Andria, who were long at the head of the Neapolitan Nobility. In 1370, Francis Del Balzo, by a quarrel with the powerful House of Sanseverino, and his obstinate resistance to the royal mandate, drew upon himself the vengeance of Queen Joan the First, who confiscated his estate. On the accession of Charles the Third, he was reinstated. This family failing, Fabricio Caraffa purchased the Duchy of Andria in 1525 for one hundred thousand ducats.

From hence I travelled twelve miles to Canosa, over a pleasant down, where the Roman road remains entire in many places, paved with common rough pebbles. Canusium, founded by Diomed, and afterwards a Roman colony, became one of the most considerable cities of this part of Italy for extent, population, and magnificence in building. The æra of Trajan seems to have been that of its greatest splendour; but this pomp only served to mark it as a capital object for the avarice and fury of the Barbarians. Gen-  
feric,



seric, Totila, and Autharis, treated it with extreme cruelty. The deplorable state to which this province was reduced in 590 is concisely, but strongly, painted by Gregory the Great in these terms: "On every side we hear groans! on every side we behold crowds of mourners, cities burnt, castles razed to the ground, countries laid waste, provinces become deserts, some citizens led away captives, and others inhumanly massacred." No town in Puglia suffered more than Canosa from the outrages of the Saracens; the contests between the Greeks and Normans increased the measure of its woes, which was filled by a conflagration that happened when it was stormed by Duke Robert. In 1090, it was assigned, by agreement, to Bohemund Prince of Antioch, who died here in 1111. Under the reign of Ferdinand the Third this estate belonged to the Grimaldis. On their forfeiture, the Affaititi acquired it, and still retain the title of Marquis, though the Capeci are the proprietors of the fief.

The ancient city\* stood in a plain between the hills and the river Ofanto, and covered a large tract of ground. Many brick monuments, though degraded and stripped of their marble casing, still attest its ancient grandeur. Among them may be traced the fragments of aqueducts, tombs, amphitheatre baths, military columns, and two

\* Nummi Canus.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Juv. imb.=Eques gal. hastat. ΚΑΝΤΕΙΝΩ.

triumphal arches, which, by their position, seem to have been two city gates. The present town stands above, on the foundations of the old citadel, and is a most pitiful remnant of so great a city, not containing above three hundred houses. The church of St. Sabinus, built, as is said, in the sixth century, is now without the inclosure. It is astonishing, that any part of this ancient cathedral should have withstood so many calamities. Its altars and pavements are rich in marbles; and the six Verde Antico columns that support its roof, are the largest and finest I ever saw of that species of marble. In a small court adjoining, under an octagonal cupola, is the mausoleum of Bohemund, adorned in a minute Gothic style. Round the cornice runs a string of barbarous rhymes; and upon the door are other inscriptions, with an embossed representation of warriors kneeling before the Madonna. In 1461, the Prince of Taranto, among the many acts of barbarity practised by him in Canosa, broke open this sepulchre, and disturbed the ashes of a hero whose memory should have been held sacred, at least by a soldier: for Bohemund was a warrior of most exalted fame, the sharer and the rival of his father Guiscard's glory; who, by his victories, was enabled to shake the throne of the Eastern Emperors: when, by the intrigues of his mother-in-law Sigelgaita, and the partiality of his uncle Earl Roger, Bohemund found himself deprived of his Italian inheritance, he turned his arms against the Saracens, and formed a new sovereignty for himself in Palestine. As



Prince of Antioch, he became one of the firmest ramparts of the Crusado against the Infidels.

The prowess of these Norman conquerors was so much greater than that of their cotemporaries, their bodily strength and feats of arms were so wonderful, that it is probable they were the originals from whom the writers of romance drew their heroes. Giants cloven to the saddle; armies routed by a single warrior; castles and bridges defended by one person alone; knights travelling over the world in search of kingdoms, princesses, and adventures, are no more than the real events of the lives of William Fierabras, Robert Guiscard, Earl Roger, and their companions. Malaterra, their cotemporary, friend, and historian, furnishes ample materials for a complete romance, with the addition of a few enchanters and dragons. In the first Sicilian campaign, William slays a gigantic champion in single combat. At Melfi, to shew the Greek herald what he could do, Hugh Tudextifem seizes his horse, and kills it with a blow of his fist. In another affair, Fierabras springs from his bed, where he lay sick of a fever, rallies his troops, kills the general of the enemies, obtains the victory, and returns to his couch. We read frequently of Robert's being obliged for food to sally out of his castle by night to surprise and carry off the cattle in the neighbourhood; and once he called out the commander of a fort to parley, caught him by the middle, and rode off with him in sight of his whole garrison. I do not know which to admire most,



most, the frankness of the prince who dictated his own story; or the honest plainness of the historian who wrote, that Earl Roger was once so poor as to be obliged to steal horses, and plunder travellers for a support. At the siege of Reggio, Roger hews a mighty giant down with his two-handed sword. In a sally he makes from a castle in Sicily, where he and his wife were besieged by the Saracens, his horse is killed under him; but the hero cuts his way through their battalions; and, lest he should be thought to have left the field out of fear, marches off with the saddle upon his shoulders. In 1063, Serlo defeats an army of thirty thousand men with only thirty-six knights armed cap-a-pee. What a fund of marvellous fictions would not such facts give birth to! How many supernatural circumstances might not a bard create out of the single one of Roger's defeating the Mahometans at Misilmeri, taking all their carrier-pigeons, smearing them with the blood of the slain, and letting them fly to announce the disaster at Palermo, which he was marching to invest. The idea of these extraordinary men certainly remained long impressed on the minds of the Italians, whose lively imagination must have embellished tradition with so many additional wonders, that the old romances had little more to do than to commit to writing, and dress up in rhyme, the common tales of every evening assembly. In these the easy brilliant genius of Ariosto revelled, and struck out the most delightful, but most eccentric descriptions ever seriously attempted by a poet.

## SECTION LIV.

I LEFT the bridge of Canosa early on the 7th, and travelled up the south-side of the river for twelve miles, without meeting with any object worthy of remark. The city of Minervino, seated on an eminence, was the only place I saw during the ride;—the country bare and disagreeable, till I entered the heart of the mountains, where I found a more woody and pleasant landscape. I dined at Lavello, a small city belonging to Caracciolo Prince of Torella. Some Roman inscriptions, and many Jewish epitaphs of the ninth century, are the amount of its antiquities. The æra of its foundation is unknown. Mention is made of it in the Lombard Chronicles, Sicard the eighteenth Duke of Beneventum having been assassinated at Lavello. Conrad the Fourth was encamped under its walls, when he was seized with the disorder that carried him off, poisoned, as is said, by his brother Manfred. Historians speak of a strange kind of poison administered on the occasion, viz. powder of diamonds mixed with scammony, which being given in a clyster, brought away the Emperor's bowels by piece-meal. This Prince was then in the zenith of his glory, having routed his enemies, punished the rebels with severity, and effectually crushed their power. Had he been allowed to live longer, the  
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House of Swabia would not have been so easily overturned; for though bloody and cruel to excess, Conrad was possessed of the bold manly qualities requisite for fixing his dominion on a permanent basis.

From Lavello I passed over rugged mountains to Venosa, which stands on a high level of nine miles in circumference, surrounded by precipices, that form on every side a natural ditch and fortification. The whole mass has been raised by the force of subterranean fires, as the nature of the soil, and a forum vulcani, or solfatara, distant a mile from the city, clearly evince. This solfatara is not encircled by hills like that of Puzzuoli, which it resembles in every other particular, of colour, sulphureous productions, and internal rumblings. Numberless streams flow out of its sides; and, what is extraordinary, vary much in their colour and mineral qualities.

Venosa was a very considerable place in ancient times, and a steady useful friend to Rome in her struggles with Hannibal. The remnant of Terentius Varro's army fled hither from Cannæ, and obtained of the generous Venusians both protection and supplies of all sorts. When the Normans subdued Puglia, Dreux had Venosa for his share of the spoil. The San Severinos enjoyed it afterwards; then passing through the family of Balzo, the honour devolved upon a son of Raymund Prince of Taranto. A brother of Pope Martin the Fifth, was for a few years invested with this fief; but on the Pontiff's demise, was deprived of his  
Neapolitan



Neapolitan grants. Caracciolo, Prince of Torella, is the present proprietor.

Nothing is now to be seen at Venosa that can recal an idea of its ancient magnificence, except pieces of marble containing parts of inscriptions, fixed in the walls of houses and churches. The Gothic edifice belonging to the Maltese order, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity, affords the greatest quantity of fragments, and even entire monuments, torn by the hands of its barbarous founders from ruined theatres, baths, and temples. This church was erected upon the foundations of a temple consecrated to Venus, from which goddess the city is supposed to have taken its name. The Benedictine monks were in possession of this abbey till the reign of Boniface the Eighth, who endowed the Knights of Saint John with it. Its architecture offers nothing singular or beautiful in the Gothic line. Solidity appears to have been more studied by the Norman architects who rebuilt or repaired it, than elegance or lightness, which became the principal objects of those builders that succeeded them. The remains of Dreux, Robert Guiscard, and Albarade his wife, whom he divorced to marry a Lombard Princess, repose under its roof. From the number of Hebraic monuments, which bear the same date with those of Lavello, I infer that the Jews flocked to this country about the time that the Saracen power was predominant in Puglia. The piece of antiquity of highest reputation, and upon which the inhabitants of Venosa plume themselves

themselves most, is a marble bust placed in the great square on a column. This they shew as the effigy of their fellow-citizen Horace; but the badness of the design, and the mode of dress, render this opinion very problematical. I take it to be the head of a saint. The respect paid to so distinguished a genius does honour to the taste of the Venetians; but I am astonished they have not canonized their poet, for the vulgar at Naples have made a saint of Virgil.

I made an excursion six miles along the Tarentine road to visit the Bandusian fountain, celebrated by Horace in the thirteenth Ode of his Third Book, and so long a point in litigation among critics and commentators. The common opinion placed it at his Sabine farm; but Abbé Chaupy has incontestibly proved, that it can be no other than a spring near Palazzo, in the principality of St. Gervasio. I discovered it by the description given by Chaupy; and was sorry to find him so faithful a painter of the present deplorable state of this once charming fountain. No shady groves now hang over its banks to shut out the burning mid-day sun; its gelid waters no longer tumble down the rocks in beautiful cascades, but, choked with dirt, and lost in bogs, are forced to seek their way under ground to a vent at the foot of the hill.

I returned to Venosa, and passed the night at Barile, at the bottom of Mount Voltore, which I proposed to ascend the next day. Barile is a large burgh, situated on a hill, that appears to owe its existence to an eruption, as the soil  
is

is entirely volcanical, and the stone, employed in buildings, a dark-coloured compact lava. A line of circumvallation of thirty miles, marks the extent of this cast-up soil. The inclosed space is covered with every species of stone, earth, and mineral, usually found on or near ignivomous mountains. Medicinal waters break on all sides, and are prescribed by physicians in many cases. The summit of Mount Voltore is like that of all volcanoes, broken on one side, and hollow in the middle. In the crater are two lakes of great depth; one near a mile, the other almost two in circumference. The water is clear, sweet, and cool, at least near the surface; but I was assured that it is insupportably strong, both in taste and smell, if drawn up from a considerable depth.

A change of weather obliged me to leave the mountain in a hurry, and make the best of my way to Lavello\*.

On the 10th, I passed the whole day in crossing the plains of Puglia to the bridge of Bovino, almost suffocated with dust, and parched up with heat. We dined at

\* Had the weather been more favourable, I should have stopped at Melfi, remarkable for being the first place that was seized by the Normans, and appointed a common rendezvous for all the chiefs of the league. Hither they brought their booty, and threw it into a joint stock. Hither they retired on any reverse of fortune. In 1059, Nicholas the Second called a Council of one hundred prelates at Melfi, and confirmed the Normans in the possession of their usurped dominions. Upon this confirmation Canonists rest all the rights to the Crown of the two Sicilies. Frederick of Swabia held a Parliament here for the purpose of promulgating the constitutions compiled by his Chancellor Peter de Vineis.



Ordona, near the ruins of Herdonia, a place of importance in the Punic war; at present some brick walls, vestiges of baths, aqueducts, and gates, are all that remain. About a mile off is a farm of the late Jesuits, called L'Orta, a stupendous pile of buildings. From Ariano, we turned off to Benevento, where we arrived through an unremitting deluge of rain, with incessant claps of thunder and flashes of lightning. Every gutter became a brook, and every brook a river; so that we were obliged to make great haste to get there, before they should swell to such a height as to stop our passage.

## SECTION LV.

**B**ENEVENTO is situated on the slope, and at the point of a hill between two narrow vallies, in one of which runs the river Sabato, in the other the Calore; below the city they unite into one stream.

We entered through the arch of Trajan, now called the Porta Aurea, which appears to great disadvantage from the walls and houses that hem it in on both sides; however, it is in tolerable preservation, and one of the most magnificent remains of Roman grandeur to be met with out of Rome. The architecture and sculpture are both singularly beautiful. This elegant monument was erected in the year of Christ 114, about the commencement of the Parthian war, and  
after

after the submission of Decebalus had entitled Trajan to the surname of Dacicus. The order is composite; the materials, white marble; the height, sixty palms; length, thirty-seven and a half; and depth twenty-four. It consists of a single arch, the span of which is twenty palms, the height thirty-five. On each side of it, two fluted columns, upon a joint pedestal, support an entablement and an Attic. The intercolumniations and frize are covered with basso-relievos, representing the battles and triumph of the Dacian war. In the Attic is the inscription.—As the sixth year of Trajan's consulate, marked on this arch, is also to be seen on all the milliary columns he erected along his new road to Brundisium, it is probable that the arch was built to commemorate so beneficial an undertaking.

Except the old Metropolis of the World, no city in Italy can boast of so many remains of ancient sculpture, as are to be found in Benevento. Scarce a wall is built of any thing but altars, tombs, columns, and remains of entablatures. The most considerable are in the upper town, which I take to be the site of the old one. The cupola of St. Sophia rests upon a circular colonnade of antique marble, in the same manner as those of Santa Maria near Nocera, Saint Sebastian, and St. Agnes at Rome,—and other buildings erected under Constantine and his family, when the arts were declining. In the court is a fine relievo of the Rape of the Sabines: the other remarkable fragments are, the Death of Meleager,—a Measurer of Corn,—some sepulchral busts,

bufts,—a large boar, covered with the stole and vitta for sacrifice, which antiquaries call the Caledonian Boar, left by Diomed as a badge to his colony of Benevento,—and, Hercules stealing the Hesperian Apples. This last piece struck me very much, from the resemblance it bears to our common mode of depicting the Fall of Man. A woman lies at the foot of a tree, and a huge serpent is twined round the trunk, stretching out its head towards the fruit, which a man leans forward to pluck. The club he holds in his hand, and a Greek inscription \*, mark him out for Hercules †. A volume might be filled with inscriptions collected here, relative to every subject, on which the ancients, who recorded every trifle, were wont to set up a lapidary memorial. The christians have also contributed a considerable variety of monuments. I remarked one, in particular, representing a man rising out of the waters, and pursued by a fish: this alludes to the story of Jonas, and was sometimes carved upon the tombs of the primitive christians, to express mysteriously their belief in the resurrection.

The cathedral is a clumsy edifice, in a stile of Gothic, or rather Lombard, architecture. This church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. was built in the sixth century, enlarged

\* ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ ΚΩΤΗΡΙ Π ΙΟΥΝΙΟC ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟC ΑΥΓΟΥC ΑΝΕΘΗΚΕΝ.

† Some ingenious writers have endeavoured to prove, that the fable of the Hesperides is built upon the scriptural account of our First Parents; and this *Ex Voto* to Hercules, shews that there are good grounds for the comparison.



in the eleventh, and altered considerably in the thirteenth, when Archbishop Roger adorned it with a new front. To obtain a sufficient quantity of marble for this purpose, he spared neither sarcophagus, altar, nor inscription; but fixed them promiscuously and irregularly in the walls of his barbarous structure. Three doors (a type of the Trinity, according to the rules established by the mystical Vitruvii of those ages) open into this facade. That in the centre is of bronze, embossed with the life of Christ, and the effigies of the Beneventine Metropolitan, with all his suffragan Bishops. The inside offers nothing to the curious observer but columns, altars, and other decorations, executed in the most inelegant stile that any of the church-building barbarians ever adopted. In the court stands a small Egyptian obelisk, of red granite, crowded with hieroglyphics. In the adjoining square, are a fountain, and a very indifferent statue of Benedict the Thirteenth, long archbishop of Benevento.

The writers of the Beneventine history unanimously claim Diomed, the Etolian chief, for the founder of their city; and consequently fix its origin in the years that immediately succeeded the Trojan war. Other authors assign it to the Samnites, who made it one of their principal towns, where they frequently took refuge, when worsted by the Romans. In their time, its name was Maleventum, a word of uncertain etymology: however, it sounded so ill in the Latin tongue, that the superstitious Romans, after achieving the

conquest of Samnium, changed it into Beneventum, in order to introduce their colony under fortunate auspices. Near this place, in the four hundred and seventy-ninth year of Rome, Pyrrhus was defeated by Curius Dentatus. In the war against Hannibal, Beneventum signalized its attachment to Rome, by liberal tenders of succour, and real services. Its reception of Gracchus, after his defeat of Hanno, is extolled by Livy; and, from the gratitude of the Senate, many solid advantages accrued to the Beneventines. As they long partook, in a distinguished manner, of the glories and prosperity of the Roman empire,—they also severely felt the effects of its decline, and shared, in a large proportion, the horrors of devastation that attended the irruption of the northern nations.

The modern history of this city will appear interesting to those readers, who do not despise the events of ages, which we usually and justly call dark and barbarous. They certainly are of importance to all the present states of Europe; for at that period originated the political existence of most of them. Had no northern savages descended from their snowy mountains, to overturn the Roman colossus, and break asunder the fetters of mankind, few of those powers, which now make so formidable a figure, would ever have been so much as heard of. The avengers of the general wrongs were, no doubt, the destroyers of arts and literature, and brought on the thick clouds of ignorance, which, for many centuries, no gleam of light could penetrate; but

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it is to be remembered, also, that the Romans themselves had already made great progress in banishing true taste and knowledge, and would very soon have been a barbarous nation, though neither Goths nor Vandals had ever approached the frontier.

The Lombards came the last of the Scythian or Scandinavian hordes, to invade Italy. After fixing the seat of their empire at Pavia, they sent a detachment to possess itself of the southern provinces. In 571, Zotto was appointed Duke of Benevento, as a feudatory of the King of Lombardy; and seems to have confined his rule to the city alone, from which he sallied forth to seek for booty. The second Duke, whose name was Arechis, conquered almost the whole country that now constitutes the kingdom of Naples. His successors appear long to have remained satisfied with the extent of dominion he had transmitted to them. Grimwald, one of them, usurped the crown of Lombardy; but his son Romwald, though a very successful warrior, contented himself with the ducal title. The fall of Desiderius, last King of the Lombards, did not affect the state of Benevento. By an effort of policy or resolution, Arechis the Second kept possession; and availing himself of the favourable conjuncture, asserted his independence,—threw off all feudal submission,—assumed the style of Prince,—and coined money with his own image upon it; a prerogative exercised by none of his predecessors, as Dukes of Benevento. During four reigns, this state maintained



itself on a respectable footing; and might long have continued so, had not civil war, added to very powerful assaults from abroad, hastened its ruin. Radelchis and Siconulph aspired to the principality; and each of them invited the Saracens to his aid. The desolation caused by this conflict is scarcely to be described. No better method for terminating these fatal dissensions could be devised, than dividing the dominions into two distinct sovereignties. In 851, Radelchis reigned as Prince at Benevento; and his adversary fixed his court, with the same title, at Salerno. From this treaty of partition, the ruin of the Lombards became inevitable: a want of union undermined their strength,—foreigners gained an ascendant over them,—irresolution and weakness pervaded their whole system of government. The erection of Capua into a third principality, was another destructive operation: and now the inroads of the Saracens,—the attacks of the eastern and western emperors,—anarchy and animosity at home—reduced the Lombard states to such wretchedness, that they were able to make a very feeble resistance to the Norman arms. The city of Benevento alone escaped their sway, by a grant which the Emperor Henry the Second had made of it to the Bishop of Rome, in exchange for the territory of Bamberg in Germany, where the Popes enjoyed a kind of sovereignty. From the year 1054 to this day, the Roman See, with some short interruptions of possession, has exercised temporal dominion over this city. Benevento has

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given

given three Popes to the chair of St. Peter; viz. Felix the Third, Victor the Third, and Gregory the Eighth; and, what it is much prouder of, reckons St. Januarius in the list of its Bishops.

## SECTION LVI.

**I** TOOK a walk in the evening to the field of battle, where Charles of Anjou defeated Manfred; and in the way would gladly have persuaded my conductor to shew me the spot where the famous walnut-tree grew, round which the witches were supposed to assemble and keep their Sabbath. He denied having any knowledge of the place, though he confessed he believed that many old women of the neighbourhood were very well acquainted with it, and that several of his friends had heard the noises the forcereffes make in the air, as they ride along on their broomsticks. This resort of witches, which was believed by all writers upon dæmonology, and is still so among the peasants hereabouts, is founded upon a very old tradition. The Lombards, whose creed differed little from that of other nations of Celtic origin, had a great veneration for trees, and were wont to perform, under particular hallowed ones, such rites as were enjoined them by their ancient institutions. At Benevento, the place of meeting was under a large walnut-tree; and it was customary to hang on the branches the

figure of a viper, with two heads, coiled up. A ring of this kind was found some years ago. This symbol, which is expressive of the vital principle, is among the oldest emblems invented by man, and may be traced through the religion of all nations, from Japan to Iceland. When St. Barbatus converted the Beneventine Lombards to Christianity, he caused the tree to be cut down; but the Legend gravely informs us, that the Devil found means to raise suckers out of the root, round which he and his sultanas from Lapland, and other seminaries of magicians, flock by night to celebrate their infernal orgies.

The plain, where the battle was fought, lies about two miles down the river. Neither commander seems to have displayed any great military skill, but to have rested the event upon the valour of his troops. Charles, indeed, had an advantage in the known treachery of the Neapolitan Barons in the Swabian army; as most of them had been gained over by his promises, or the Pope's spiritual threats. Manfred seeing the traitors refuse to charge, rushed with his faithful adherents into the thickest of the fray, where he was slain. His body remained above a day undiscovered, till a peasant, who was well acquainted with his person, found it, and laying it across his ass, called out in derision, Who will attack Manfred? The French officers sued in vain to their chief for leave to deposit the corpse in holy ground. Pignatelli, the Pope's Legate, insisted upon its being thrown into a ditch: every foldier in the army cast a stone upon the

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the grave, and thus raised a barrow over it. But this fanatical Prelate, whose revenge nothing could satisfy, caused the bones to be taken up, and scattered on the banks of the river Verde in Abruzzo, where no friend or humane person might find them, and again commit them to earth. Thus ended Manfred.—No Prince has been more virulently traduced by the Guelph writers, whose interest and hatred combined to set his character in as bad a light as possible, in order to strengthen the claim of his opponent, and to support the high pretensions of the church. Some Ghibellines have attempted to do him justice. It would be no difficult task, with the documents that may be obtained from the chronicles of the thirteenth century, to draw up a fair state of the question, and vindicate Manfred from many of the heavy charges brought against him. An ingenious Author, in his historic doubts concerning our King Richard the Third, has pointed out the way of proceeding in such a redintegration of character. Those unfortunate monarchs resembled each other in many particulars; but undoubtedly the Neapolitan greatly deserves the preference. Manfred was beautiful in his person, accomplished in all arts then becoming a gentleman; affable, magnificent, liberal, great in his views, and anxious for the welfare of his people; inflexible and impartial in the distribution of justice; learned, for the times he lived in; and a protector of those who cultivated science. On the other hand, I must not dissemble his contempt for religion,—but I impute the fault:

to

to the complexion of the times in which he lived,—when the temporal dictates of the Pope were so artfully interwoven with the spiritual dogmas of the church, that whoever dared to dispute the former, was apt to reject the latter,—at least was supposed so to do. I believe him to have indulged a passion for the fair sex; but, had he been permitted to live longer, age would no doubt have brought on repentance, and he might have died in as good repute as Charlemagne, Lewis the Fourteenth, or any other great and amorous monarch. Manfred was ambitious,—and, to obtain a crown, infringed the laws of inheritance: but a defence of his conduct, on that point, would look like a satire on his numberless fellow-culprits, from Cæsar down to Kouli Khan;—and I must have better proofs than any yet alleged, to convince me of his having been a murderer and a parricide. If we had not examples, in all ages, of the like weaknesses in other great men, I should be astonished to find Manfred such a believer in astrology and omens. He gave an instance of this credulity, as he was marching to battle, by being so shocked at the falling of a silver eagle from his helmet, that he turned pale, and cried out, “This is a sign from God!”

On leaving Benevento, I crossed the Calore, and travelled to Montefarchio, up hill most of the way, by a very fine road. Three bridges, built of immense blocks of stone, are the only remains of the *Via Appia*. The soil varies, but is in many places volcanical: one small hill is an entire lump  
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of lava. Montefarchio, a large town belonging to the Prince of Troja, stands at the head of a plain surrounded with lofty mountains on every side, except the north-west corner, where the chain is broken. This plain is of an oblong shape, and has, in my opinion, been originally the crater of a very large volcano, and afterwards a lake. The sediment of the waters may have levelled and filled up the bottom; and at last a shock may have broken down some part of the environing hills, and let out the water. Torrents washing down the soil of the mountains, may have continued to raise the level, and cultivation completed the drainage. This seems to me, from its size and position, to be the place where the Roman Consuls, and their army of thirty thousand men, were enveloped and captured by the Samnites, who possessed themselves of the high grounds,—blocked up the pass that leads eastward to Benevento,—and, as soon as the Romans had entered the valley, closed up the way from Arpaia, by which the legions had entered. I know it is usual to call the narrow dell below Arpaia, or that which leads to Durazzano, by the name of the Caudine Forks; and dissertations have been written to prove and explain this idea. But those vallies are so short and narrow, that I cannot conceive how so many thousand armed men, in marching array, could be squeezed into the space. It is clear that the vanguard must have marched out at the head of the defile, before the rear could arrive at the bottom; which would effectually have frustrated the scheme.



scheme of the Samnites. The flatness of the plain of Montefarchio is not a sufficient reason for rejecting my supposition, because earth washed from mountains, ruins of houses, and fall of wood—must, in the process of ages, have raised the soil considerably, and changed the whole face of the country. At the Forchia d'Arpaia, the ancient Caudium—the pass is still so narrow, the hills on each side so bold and steep, that even now it would be easy to throw in such an abattis as could not be forced, though defended only by a handful of men.

From hence the descent is rapid to Arienzo, by a beautiful winding valley, well shaded with hanging woods of chestnut-trees;—the road excellent. Arienzo is a large burgh, in a low but delightful situation, surrounded with vineyards and gardens. It belonged to Etendart, one of Charles the First's generals,—then to Boffa,—and now to Caraffa, Duke of Madaloni.

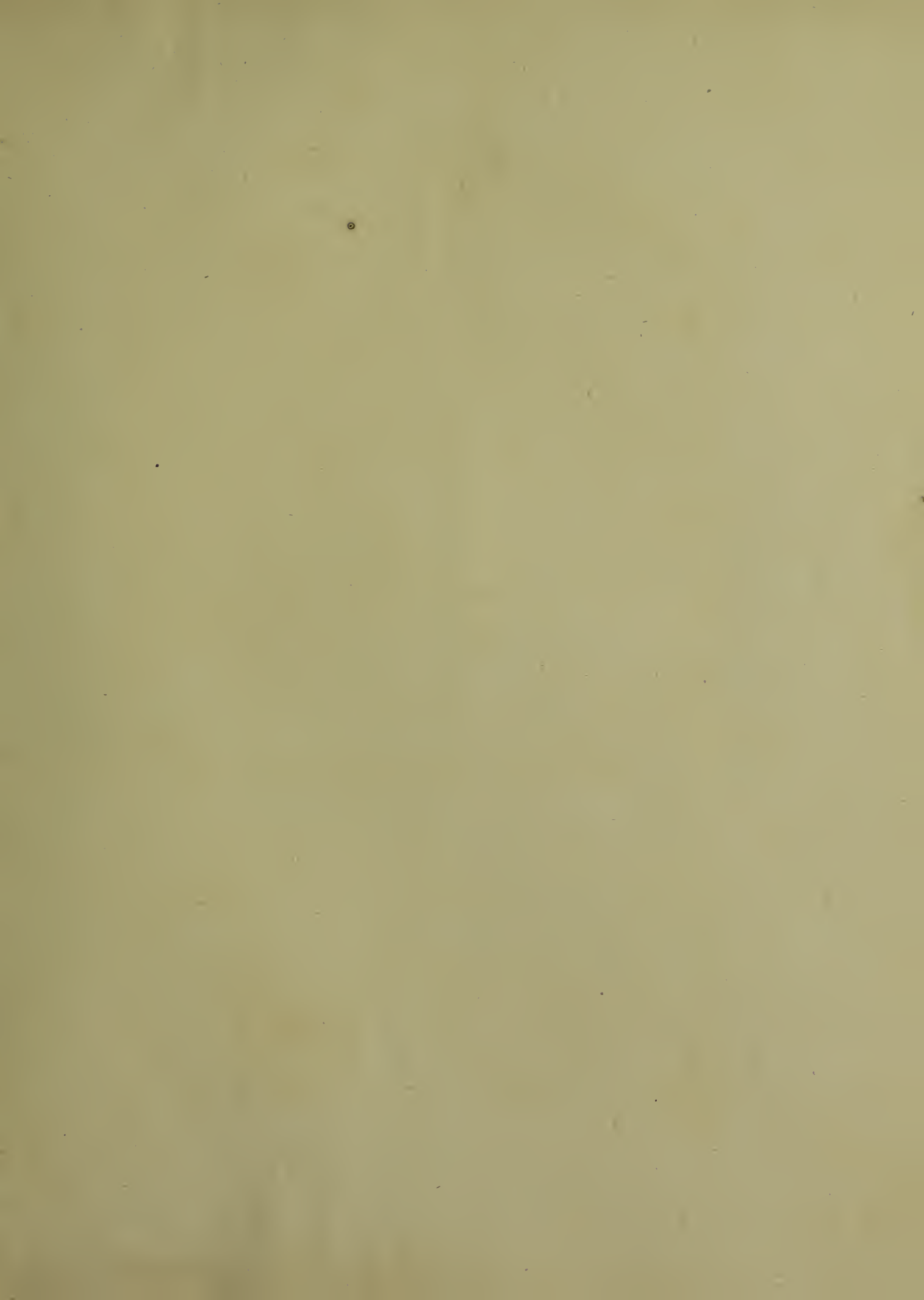
Here I left the hills, and travelled to Acerra, a neat city, walled round after the old manner, in a very flat, wet situation. Large drains prevent the river Lagno from being so destructive to its territory as it was in the time of the Romans, when its position was bad to a proverb. This fief was first held by a branch of the Aquino family, which failed in 1292. Ctho of Brunswick received it from his wife Joan the First, and sold it to Orfino. In Charles the Third's reign, Protogiudice had it; and, under Joan the Second, it passed to Origlia: Alphonsus the First invested  
Cardines

Cardines with it.—Acerra is called the country of Punchinello, because that comic character, which is to the Neapolitan stage what Harlequin the Bergamasque is to the other Italian ones, is always understood to be a native of this little city. Punchinello is the wit, the droll of Neapolitan comedy,—speaks the provincial jargon, and has the exclusive privilege of saying good things and double entendres. He is such a favourite, that, in carnival time, the streets of Naples are crowded with masks in his dress, all acting inimitably a part, for which they are so exactly formed by nature. From Acerra to Naples, the road is sandy, through one continued wood of vines and poplars.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.















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